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THE HINDU

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

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NEARBY

Council passes anti-conversion Bill

BENGALURU

Setting the stage for clearance of the Karnataka Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, the Legislative Council passed the controversial legislation by voice vote amidst protest and walkout from Congress members. High drama prevailed before the passage of the Bill.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 8

CET ranking: HC to hear appeal on Sept. 19

BENGALURU

The High Court will hear on September 19 the appeal filed by the State government challenging a single judge's September 3 order of quashing CET-2022 ranking for undergraduate engineering courses and directing the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to redo the ranking by taking II PU marks and CET-2022 marks in the ratio of 50:50, even for students who passed II PU in 2021.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 5

METROPLUS ▸ PAGE 7

Goa Cong. Legislature Party merges with BJP

Group has the required numbers, says Assembly Speaker

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A day after eight of the 11 Congress MLAs in the Goa Assembly defected to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Goa Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar on Thursday formally accepted the merger of the State Congress Legislature Party (CLP) into the BJP.

Speaking to presspersons in Panaji, Mr. Tawadkar said he had gone through the letter submitted by the eight Congress MLAs and found that they had the required number (two-thirds) for their merger with the BJP.

The Congress rebel MLAs – former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat, Calangute legislator Michael Lobo and his wife Delilah Lobo, Aleixo Sequeira, Rodolfo Fernandes, Sankalp Amonkar, Rajesh Faldessai and Kedar Naik – joined the saffron party in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and BJP Goa president Sadanand Shet Tanavade on Wednesday.

Instant reward: Sources say a Cabinet reshuffle is likely in order to accommodate the new entrants to the party. • PTI

Speaking to presspersons on Thursday after a meeting of the BJP's core committee, Mr. Tanavade said the Congress MLAs had joined his party owing to Prime Minister Modi's development agenda and that the decision to allow the Congress MLAs into the BJP was green-lighted by the saffron party's central leadership. "Had the proposal of merger been given to me, then I might have said no. But when the party's central leadership decides on something, then the decision is binding on all," Mr. Tanavade said.

According to sources, a Cabinet reshuffle by Mr. Sawant is imminent and two or three BJP Ministers may be dropped to make way for the new turncoats.

Congress' Goa desk incharge Dinesh Gundu Rao alleged that the BJP had offered massive sums to the tune of ₹40 crore-50 crore to lure each MLA into their camp, besides instilling the fear of unleashing Central agencies on them.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Soren seeks clarity from Governor

Jharkhand CM calls for an end to three weeks of confusion over EC's letter

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday met Governor Ramesh Bais and urged him to clear the confusion prevailing in the State for over three weeks over the Election Commission's (EC) purported opinion on Mr. Soren's "disqualification" as a member of the Legislative Assembly in connection with a mining lease contract.

"Provide a copy of the decision of the Election Commission and provide an opportunity for reasonable hearing at the earliest so that the atmosphere of uncertainty engulfing the State, which is dangerous for healthy democracy, can be removed soon," Mr. Soren urged the Governor in a two-page letter submitted to him. Mr. Soren also said that the Opposition BJP in the State had been using the uncertainty to "destabilise a democratically elected government by trying to poach ruling UPA (United Progressive Alliance) MLAs".

Hemant Soren

Later, Mr. Soren tweeted in Hindi: "Meeting Hon'ble Governor Shri Ramesh Bais ji today, handed over a letter to him to remove the uncertainty of unexpected circumstances in the State for more than three weeks."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Payment of ₹200 crore to drug firms for supply of Remdesivir stuck

This is in view of violation of a tender condition on third-party testing

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

Remdesivir injection, which was considered a crucial drug in COVID-19 treatment protocol, became a household name during the second wave of the pandemic in 2021. While the pandemic threat has receded, it turns out that the Karnataka Government is yet to pay the dues to companies supplying the drug, which adds up to ₹200-odd crore, on account of violation of a tender condition that testing 10% of all supplies to the government is mandatory.

More than a year after the drug was supplied, payments to major pharma companies are stalled due to this violation. During the second wave of the pandemic in 2021, the critical injection was procured by the government through Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KSMSCL), a nodal agency for procurement of all government-related medical supplies in the State.

The delay in payment of dues has been attributed to violation of tender condition for medical supplies to the government that mandates a third-party lab test prior to supply. However, these lab tests were not conducted citing the medical emergency starting from April 2021.

Remdesivir was in very short supply. Scenes of relatives of patients desperately searching for Remdesivir were all over social media and news publications.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

Federer to retire after Laver Cup

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tennis legend Roger Federer called time on his glittering career through a social media post on Thursday. And just like his game on the courts he adorned for more than two decades, his note was high on grace. Winner of 20 Grand Slam titles, the former world number one forged a formidable triumvirate with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic that dominated men's tennis. But Federer isn't finished yet and through his note, he wrote: "The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event."

FULL REPORT ▸ PAGE 17

'Aim is conciliation with all armed groups in N-E'

Fall in insurgency incidents, says Shah

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that it was the government's aim to resolve inter-boundary disputes in the north-east and strike a conciliation with all armed insurgent groups in the region before 2024.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the signing of a tripartite memorandum of settlement between the Government of India, the Assam government and eight armed Adivasi groups of Assam.

He said that in the past three years, many agreements had been signed with the armed groups and 93% pacts had been implemented on the ground.

At the signing of the settlement, Mr. Shah said care had been taken to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic identity of the tribal groups.

He said the number of insurgency-related incidents in the north-east decreased from 824 in 2014 to 158. The number of civilian killings in the region declined from 212 in 2014 to six, and the number of security forces killed during the same period had reduced to two from 20 earlier. More than 10,000 cadres had surrendered and joined the mainstream after 2014 and more than 7,000 weapons had been surrendered.

AFSPA relaxed

Mr. Shah said it was the aim of the government to make the north-east "terrorism-free." He said that because of the improvement in the security situation, the disturbed areas under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act had been reduced from a large part of the north-east.

Stalin launches Breakfast Scheme

STAFF REPORTER
MADURAI

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme rolled out for students of Classes I to V in government schools is not a freebie; in fact it is the foremost duty and responsibility of the State government to ensure its children are fed. Such schemes are the face of a government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said here on Thursday.

He was speaking at the launch of the novel 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' at the Corporation Primary School Aathimoolam II in Simmakal, Madurai. "While interacting with students recently in a programme at Chennai, I asked a few students why they appeared tired and if they had eaten," he said.

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'NOT A CHARITY' ▸ PAGE 13

Delay in PMAY-G scheme to invite penalty

Centre to fine laggard States for not meeting targets of flagship housing scheme

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Pulling up the States for the delay in completion of the Narendra Modi government's flagship rural household scheme – Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) – the Union Ministry of Rural Development has come up with a set of penalties that the State governments will have to bear for any further delay. Opposition-ruled West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, along with BJP-ruled Assam, are the leading four States who are far behind their targets.

This is the first time, since the scheme started in April 2016 with a target of constructing 2.95 crore houses, that the Union Government has introduced a penalty clause. The initial deadline for the scheme was March 2022, which owing to the COVID pandemic was extended by another two years till March 2024.

Ambitious goals: Under the scheme, the Union government has set itself a target of constructing 2.95 crore houses.

"The order is only to ensure that the States pay more attention to the programme. Because of the pandemic, we have already missed one deadline and now we have only 19 months till March 2024 to complete all the pending houses," a senior official at the Ministry said.

Under the scheme, the government has set itself a target of 2.95 crore houses. This number was deduced from the Socio-Economic Caste Survey, 2011. As per the statistics available with the Union Ministry of Rural Development, till August 2022, 2.02 crore houses have been constructed.

On September 13, the Ministry sent a circular to all States listing out six penalty clauses. If the sanction of the house is delayed for more than one month from the date of issue of the target, the State government will be penalised ₹10 per house for the first month of delay and ₹20 per house for each subsequent month of delay. Similarly, if the first instalment due to the beneficiary is delayed for more than seven days from the date of sanction, then the State governments will have to pay ₹10 per house per week of delay.

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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Pay gap

5,000 in ₹, the gap between the monthly earnings of non-SCs and non-STs and the wages of persons from the SC/ST communities, according to a report by Oxfam India. As per the 'India Discrimination Report 2022', which highlights bias in accessing jobs, the mean income for SCs and STs in urban areas, who are regular employees, is ₹15,312 as against ₹20,346 for those belonging to the general category. This means that the general category is earning 33% more than SC/STs. PTI

Death toll in Pak floods

1,486 The death toll in Pakistan floods. Unprecedented floods have submerged huge swathes of Pakistan. Authorities state that hundreds of thousands of people are still sleeping in the open air after the disaster. The deluge, brought by record monsoon rains and the glacial melt in northern mountains, has impacted 33 million people out of a population of 220 million, sweeping away homes, vehicles, crops and livestock in damages estimated at $30 billion. AGENCIES

Milk procurement

18,000 In ₹ crore, the estimated milk procurement by producer companies, in the next five years, according to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). NDDB Chairman Meenesh Shah said that the milk producer companies procured milk worth ₹5,575 crore last fiscal year and the same is set to triple in the next five years. He also assured that the NDDB through its dairy services will facilitate the setting up of more milk producer companies across the country. PTI

Jewellery exports

6.7 In percentage, the rise in overall gems and jewellery exports in August to ₹26,418 crore compared to the same month last year, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). The gems and jewellery exports stood at ₹24,749 crore during August 2021. The GJEPC Chairman said that the cut and polished diamond exports were largely affected due to a slowdown in the Chinese economy caused by ongoing lockdowns in the last two months. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is also affecting diamond exports to some extent. PTI

More aid for Syria

750 In $ million, the amount of additional aid the U.S. announced on Wednesday for the Syrian people. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the UN Security Council that the new assistance "will bring immediate relief to millions of refugees and displaced persons.. it will help humanitarian partners provide clean water, food, hygiene and relief supplies, shelter, protection services, and critical health and nutrition assistance, and it will include support for early recovery programs.." AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The Eastern Economic Forum and India's balancing act

What are the benefits of investing in the Russian Far East? Which all countries are currently investing in the region?

THE GIST

- The Eastern Economic Forum was established in 2015 to encourage foreign investments in Russia's Far East. As of 2022, almost 2,729 investment projects are being planned in the region.
- During the forum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed the country's readiness in expanding trade, connectivity and investments in Russia. India is keen to deepen its cooperation in energy, pharmaceuticals, maritime connectivity, healthcare, tourism, the diamond industry and the Arctic.
- India has vested interests in both the EEF and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framwork and has worked towards balancing its involvement. The IPEF is a vital platform for India to strengthen its presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

AVISHKA ASHOK

The story so far: Russia hosted the seventh Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) Vladivostok from September 5 to 8. The four-day forum is a platform for entrepreneurs to expand their businesses into Russia's Far East (RFE).

What is the Eastern Economic Forum?
The EEF was established in 2015 to encourage foreign investments in the RFE. The EEF displays the economic potential, suitable business conditions and investment opportunities in the region. Agreements signed at the EEF increased from 217 in 2017 to 380 agreements in 2021, worth 3.6 trillion roubles. As of 2022, almost 2,729 investment projects are being planned in the region. The agreements focus on infrastructure, transportation projects, mineral excavations, construction, industry and agriculture.

Who are the major actors in the Forum? What are their interests?
This year, the Forum aimed at connecting the Far East with the Asia Pacific region. China is the biggest investor in the region as it sees potential in promoting the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and the Polar Sea Route in the RFE. China's investments in the region account for 90% of the total investments. Russia has been welcoming Chinese investments since 2015; more now than ever due to the economic pressures caused by the war in Ukraine. The Trans-Siberian Railway has further helped Russia and China in advancing trade ties. The countries share a 4000-kilometer-long border, which enables them to tap into each other's resources with some infrastructural assistance. China is also looking to develop its Heilongjiang province which connects with the RFE. China and Russia have invested in a fund to develop northeastern China and the RFE, through collaborations on connecting the cities of Blagoveshchensk and Heihe via a 1,080 metre bridge, supplying natural gas, and a rail bridge connecting the cities of Nizhneleninskoye and Tongjiang.

Besides China, South Korea has also been gradually increasing its investments in the region. South Korea has invested in shipbuilding projects, manufacturing of electrical equipment, gas-liquefying plants, agricultural production and fisheries. In 2017, the Export-Import Bank of Korea and the Far East Development Fund announced their intention to inject $2 billion in the RFE in a span of three years.

Japan is another key trading partner in the Far East. In 2017, Japanese investments through 21 projects amounted to $16 billion. Under Shinzo Abe's leadership, Japan identified eight areas of economic cooperation and pushed private businesses to invest in the development of the RFE. Japan seeks to depend on Russian oil and gas resources after the 2011 meltdown in Fukushima which led the government to pull out of nuclear energy. Japan also sees a market for its agro-technologies which have the potential to flourish in the RFE, given similar climatic conditions. However, the momentum of trade that existed with Shinzo Abe was lost with the leadership of Yoshihide Suga and Fumio Kishida. The trade ties between Japan and Russia are hindered by the Kuril Islands dispute as they are claimed by both countries.

India seeks to expand its influence in the RFE. During the forum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed the country's readiness in expanding trade, connectivity and investments in Russia. India is keen to deepen its cooperation in energy, pharmaceuticals, maritime connectivity, healthcare, tourism, the diamond industry and the Arctic.

In 2019, India also offered a $1 billion line of credit to develop infrastructure in the region. Through the EEF, India aims to establish a strong inter-state interaction with Russia. Business representatives of Gujarat and the Republic of Sakha have launched agreements in the diamond and pharmaceuticals industry.

What does the EEF aim for?
The primary objective of the EEF is to increase the Foreign Direct Investments in the RFE. The region encompasses one-third of Russia's territory and is rich with natural resources such as fish, oil, natural gas, wood, diamonds and other minerals. The sparse population living in the region is another factor for encouraging people to move and work in the Far East. The region's riches and resources contribute to five per cent of Russia's GDP. But despite the abundance and availability of materials, procuring and supplying them is an issue due to the unavailability of personnel.

The RFE is geographically placed at a strategic location; acting as a gateway into Asia. The Russian government has strategically developed the region with the aim of connecting Russia to the Asian trading routes. With the fast modernisation of cities like Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Ulan-Ude, Chita and more, the government aims to attract more investments in the region. Russia is trying to attract the Asian economies in investing and developing the far east. The Ukraine war is a worrying issue as it affects the economic growth of the country. However, Russia believes that it can survive the economic crisis and the sanctions with the help of China and other Asian powers.

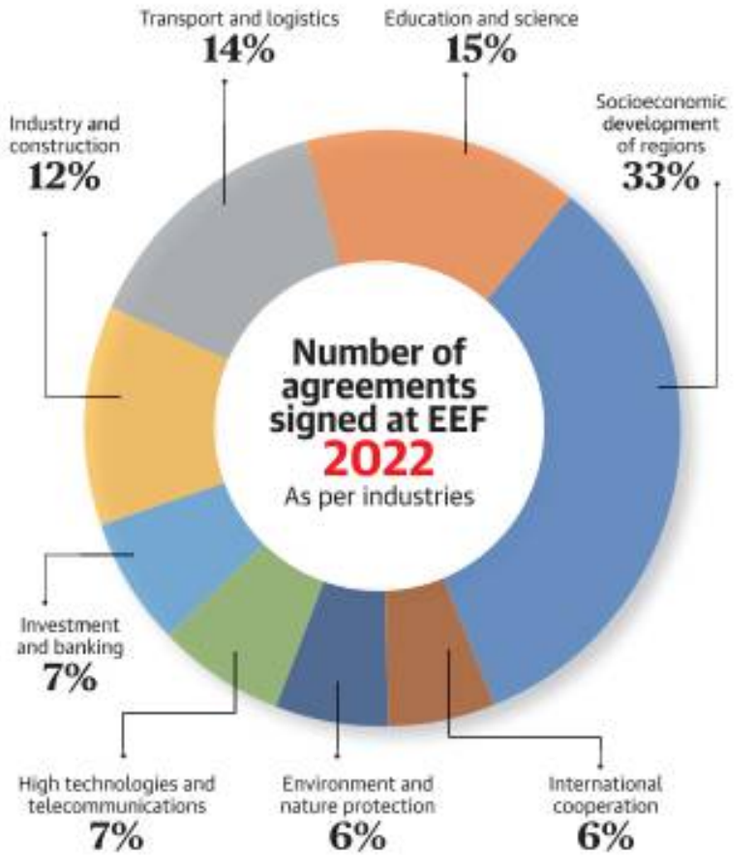
Although, the EEF is an annual gathering, the forum comes at an opportune time for Russia who is dealing with the impact of the sanctions. Moreover, the coming together of countries like Myanmar, Armenia, Russia, and China seems like the forming of an anti-sanctions group in the international order.

Will India be able to achieve a balance between the EEF and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)?
The U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and the EEF are incomparable based on its geographic coverage and the partnership with the host-countries. India has vested interests in both the forums and has worked towards balancing its involvement. India has not shied away from investing in the Russia-initiated EEF despite the current international conditions.

At the same time, India has given its confirmation and acceptance to three of the four pillars in the IPEF. The country understands the benefits of being involved in the development in the RFE but it also perceives the IPEF as a vital platform to strengthen its presence in the Indo-Pacific region. The IPEF also presents an ideal opportunity for India to act in the region, without being part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or other regional grouping like the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership .

The IPEF will also play a key role in building resilient supply chains. India's participation in the forum will help in disengaging from supply chains that are dependent on China and will also make it a part of the global supply chain network. Additionally, the IPEF partners will act as new sources of raw material and other essential products, further reducing India's reliance on China for raw materials. Although, Mr. Modi has refrained from full participation in the trade pillar of the IPEF, it does not signify an end to India's role in the forum.

Avishka Ashok is a Research Associate at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore



Source: Data from Eastern Economic Forum, forumvostok.ru

EXPLAINER

Tamil Nadu's new breakfast scheme in schools

How has the history of the idea of nutrition in school schemes progressed so far?

THE GIST

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Thursday, at the Madurai Corporation Primary School Aathimoolam II in Simmakal, Madurai, launched the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for students of Class I to V in government schools.
- Anaemia is a major health problem in Tamil Nadu, especially among women and children, says the 2019-21 National Family Health Survey-5's report. Those in charge of the meal programme can enhance the component of nutrition to those children having specific problems. The latest Breakfast Scheme is a step in this direction.
- As of now, there are nearly 46.7 lakh beneficiaries spread over 43,190 nutritious meal centres.

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The story so far: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Thursday, at the Madurai Corporation Primary School Aathimoolam II in Simmakal, Madurai, launched the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for students of Class I to V in government schools. The scheme covers around 1.14 lakh students in 1,545 schools which include 417 municipal corporation schools, 163 municipality schools and 728 taluk and village panchayat-level schools. A sum of ₹33.56 crore has been set apart for the scheme. The inauguration of the scheme marks an important milestone in the State's history of providing free meals to school students.

How has the idea evolved?
In November 1920, the Madras (now Chennai) Corporation Council approved a proposal for providing tiffin to the students of a Corporation School at Thousand Lights at a cost not exceeding one anna per student per day. P. Theagaraya Chetty, the then President of the Corporation (the modern-day equivalent of Mayor) and one of the stalwarts of the Justice Party, said the boys studying at the school were poor, which affected the strength of the institution 'greatly'. The scheme, which was extended to four more schools and facilitated higher enrollment of students, suffered a setback in 1925 when the British government disallowed the expenditure on the supply of mid-day meals to students from the Elementary Education Fund. It was revived two years later, benefitting around 1,000 poor students in 25 schools.

The concept saw a State-wide application in 1956 when the then Chief Minister K. Kamaraj decided to provide free noon meal to poor children in all primary schools across the State. The Budget for 1956-57 contained a provision for supplying mid-day meals to schoolchildren for 200 days a year, initially covering 65,000 students in 1,300 feeding centres.

In July 1982, it was left to the then Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran to extend the programme to children in the 2-5 age group in Anganwadis and those in 5-9 age group in primary schools in rural areas. Subsequently, the scheme – now called Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme – was extended to urban areas as well. Since September 1984, students of standards VI to X have been covered under the scheme.

Over the years, there have been improvements to the programme. M. Karunanidhi, as Chief Minister during the short-lived Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Ministry (1989-91), introduced the provision of boiled eggs once every fortnight, starting June 1989. His successor, Jayalalithaa, in March 2013, extended the scheme by including variety meals along with masala eggs as per the children's choice.

The inauguration of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme. • ASHOK. R

What are the number of beneficiaries of the programme?
As of now, there are nearly 46.7 lakh beneficiaries spread over 43,190 nutritious meal centres. This includes around 3,500 students of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) special schools. The State budget for 2022-23 has provided around ₹2,077 crore for the nutritious meal programme.

Besides, as a consequence of the collaborative implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the nutritious meal programme, around 15.8 lakh children in the age group of 2+ to 5+ years receive nutritious meals.

What was the impact of the mid-day meal scheme on school education ?
After the improved version of the mid-day meal scheme in 1982, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) at primary level (standards I to V) went up by 10% during July-September, 1982 as compared to the corresponding period in 1981.

The rise in boys' enrollment was 12% and in the case of girls, 7%, according to a publication brought out by the Tamil Nadu government on the occasion of the launch of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.

Likewise, attendance during July-September 1982 rose by 33% over the previous year's figure.

Kamaraj – An Era (2008), a biography authored by senior Congress functionary A. Gopanna, states that after the inauguration of the mid-day meal scheme in 1956, the number of primary schools went up from 15,800 in 1957 to 29,000 in 1962.

Where should the programme focus more?
Anaemia is a major health problem in Tamil Nadu, especially among women and children, says the 2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5's report. From 50% during the period of the 2015-16 NFHS-4, the prevalence of anaemia in children now went up to 57%. This and many other health issues can be addressed through the combined efforts of the departments of School Education, Public Health and Social Welfare and Women Empowerment.

Based on expert advice, those in charge of the implementation of the ICDS and the nutritious meal programme can enhance the component of nutrition to those children having specific problems. The latest Breakfast Scheme is a step in this direction.

Besides, a continuous and rigorous review of the progress of the scheme and nutritious meal programme should be carried out in a sustained manner, says a senior government official.

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*Terms and conditions apply. The limited period exclusive offer price is computed on the MRP ₹79900.00 (incl. of all taxes) of iPhone 14, 128 GB, (15.49 cm, 1 N).The illustrative Exchange Effective price calculated above on MRP is reduced by ₹5000.00 cashback offered on the usage of HDFC Bank Debit and Credit Cards, and further reduced by exchange value of iPhone 11 64 GB (15.49 cm, 1 N) in a good working condition along with ₹3000.00 exchange bonus. The cashback offer of ₹5000.00 is available and valid exclusively on EMI transactions on HDFC Bank Debit & Credit Cards and Non-EMI transaction on HDFC Bank Credit Cards. The cashback offer is valid and applicable for transactions made using the Brand EMI option on Pine Labs and Paytm terminals and on select online merchants via Pine Labs Payment Gateway. The cashback shall be credited within 120 business days from the last date of the transaction month on best effort basis to all open and active cards members' accounts only. No Cost EMI is applicable on HDFC Bank Debit and Credit Card EMI transactions on 6 months tenure only. Low-Cost EMI is available on tenure greater than 6 months. Processing fee and GST on interest component is applicable as per the Bank's terms and conditions. EMI of ₹3329.00 is computed on 0 down payment, 24 months No Cost EMI consumer loan scheme, on the MRP ₹79900.00 (incl. of all taxes) of iPhone 14, 128 GB, (15.49 cm, 1 N). EMIs illustrated above are rounded off to the nearest rupee for ease of reference. No Cost EMI consumer loan schemes are available on Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and ZestMoney. The consumer loan approval from the financier is at their sole discretion. The scheme is provided as No Cost EMI i.e., the benefit of No Cost EMI as a total applicable interest to be charged by financier on consumer loan for original tenure will be borne by apple authorised distributors. Processing fee is applicable and will be charged to the customer. Goods and Services Tax will be applicable on processing fee, and foreclosure charges, as applicable. Customer may be required to enter into separate agreements or arrangements (by whatever name called) with the financier to avail or use the EMI facility. Customers are advised to read the offer/agreement terms and conditions carefully. The Exchange bonus of upto ₹3000.00 is exclusively provided by the Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers Cashify and Servify at select stores at their sole discretion. Exchange bonus is valid only for transactions involving trade-in of eligible old devices valued at least ₹3000.00 or above. Eligible old devices valued between ₹3000.00 and ₹10000.00 will receive an exchange bonus of ₹2000.00; while old devices valued above ₹10000.00 will receive an exchange bonus of ₹3000.00. The exchange bonus and trade-in value will be passed on as a credit or discount in the customer's invoice. Exchange Bonus offer can be clubbed with Cards Cashback Offer. Exchange Bonus offer cannot be clubbed with any other existing consumer loan offers. Customer's eligible old device trade-in value as diagnosed and assessed by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will be the final offer. Any other T&Cs as specified by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will apply. Offer available till stocks last. Available at select Apple Authorised Reseller stores. For store details log on to indiaistore.com. The offers may be revised or withdrawn without any prior notice. Product features vary by model. TM and © 2022 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

The BBMP removing encroachments on Thursday.

Town planning in city dysfunctional: Experts

'There is systematic corruption and mismanagement'

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.
BENGALURU

Amid an anti-encroachment drive by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), several property owners who have now been termed encroachers, including IT giant Wipro, have protested,

They argue their building plans were approved by the city's civic body, who after many years suddenly turned up, claiming the buildings were encroaching on storm-water drains (SWDs). Many property owners not only have sanctioned plans, but occupancy certificates (OCs) as well.

Sanctioned plans and OCs are documents town planning officials are mandated to issue only after a thorough spot inspection of the site for building bylaw violations, encroachments, and other violations.

The fact that JCBs are now at the buildings, whose owners have all these certificates, is a testament that they were issued without proper inspection.

Civic activists allege a systemic breakdown of town planning and its regulation is at the core of this mess. Earlier studies have also indicated lax implementation of master plans drawn up by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA). "If authorities like the BBMP and the BDA were correct and diligent in their planning and giving of approvals, such floods would not have happened," said lake conservation activist V. Ramprasad.

"There is systematic corruption and mismanagement in town planning, whereby officials give approvals to builders, who have encroached upon SWDs and lakes, without going for spot checks," says Srinivas Alavilli, head of Civic Participation in Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.

There has been a clamour for holding officials, who gave clearance for these projects, accountable.

"What happens to those who had approved these land for constructions and what action has been taken so far against those officials who are issuing approvals after taking money?" said Mr. Alavilli.

In 2016, during a similar encroachment clearance drive, the Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force booked FIRs against 20 officials, including those retired, from the BBMP and the BDA for permitting buildings on SWDs. However, the cases went nowhere and no official was convicted, sources said.

We have abided by the laws: Wipro, Puravankara

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Days after the BBMP mentioned that Wipro had encroached on a SWD, the company said that their campus in Doddakannelli is as per the sanctioned plan. The company said: "Wipro abides by the laws of every jurisdiction where it does business and adheres to the highest standards of integrity. The Wipro campus in Doddakannelli is as per sanctioned plan. We have not received any notice from BBMP".

A day after BBMP Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath alleged that along with Bagmane Tech Park, Purva Parkridge of Puravankara Limited has encroached upon a SWD, Abhishek Kapoor, CEO, Puravankara Limited, said in a statement: "Nothing illegal has been done while constructing Purva Parkridge as claimed by Bagmane Group. The project was executed in line with the sanctioned plan, approved by the BDA as per the Comprehensive Development Plan".

On 4th day, demolition drive in 29 places

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

On the fourth day of the encroachment clearance drive, the BBMP removed structures in 29 places in the Mahadevapura, the Yelahanka, the Bomanahalli, and the Dasarahalli zones.

According to BBMP officials, they have also started a survey in Vagdevi Layout, Munnekollal, Kasavanahalli village, ABK village, Prestage tech park, Wipro, Sunny Brooks in Doddakannelli, Belathur village, Sadaramangala, Bollineni Silas apartment, and Sai Garden layout. "After completing the survey, we will start issuing notice to these properties," officials added.

'Only 63 km of SWDs developed in three years'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Accusing the BJP government of going slow on the development of storm-water drains (SWDs) in Bengaluru that resulted in flooding of several areas during the recent rains, Congress member Krishna Byre Gowda on Thursday alleged that the government had actually diverted funds earmarked for construction of SWDs to other minor works.

"The BJP dispensation was able to complete development of only 63 km of SWDs in Bengaluru in the last three years as against the requirement of developing about 400 km. Such lethargic progress is the main reason for the recent flooding of the city," Mr. Gowda said in a debate in the Assembly.

"The government has diverted around ₹350 crore from the ₹1,321 crore that had been earmarked for development of SWDs," he alleged, adding that money was diverted towards taking up development of small roads in the city.

He explained that a total of 400 km of SWDs had been developed in Bengaluru till 2018-19 (before the BJP came to power).

But from then, the BJP had been able to develop only 63 km of SWDs though it had to develop another 400 km to insulate the city from floods, he said.

Referring to a statement by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai that the government would get details on the SWDs in Bengaluru, Mr. Gowda said already the CAG had mapped them.

Person tries to con Flipkart customers

Accused creates email ID in the name of CEO and mails them for details

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Whitefield Cybercrime Police are trying to track down a person who created an email account in the name of the Flipkart Chief Executive Officer to mail customers seeking details.

Based on a complaint filed by Rajesh K., an employee of the company, on behalf of the CEO, the police have registered an FIR charging the accused under various sections of the IT Act on Tuesday.

In his complaint, Mr. Rajesh said that the accused created dare2dream640@gmail.com and mailed customers, posing as CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy, seeking their personal and financial details earlier this month.

The incident came to light when one of the customer verified it with the company. This is an attempt to tarnish the image of the company, Mr. Rajesh alleged in his complaint.

The police who initiated a probe said that the fake email id was generated from Nigeria. "We are trying to track down the person through other technical details," a police officer said.

It may be recalled that a similar incident was reported in 2016 where an email ID in the name of the then CEO of Flipkart was created by hackers to swindle $80,000 from the company's account.

Five Shell recharge stations set up in city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Shell, an integrated energy firm, has chosen Bengaluru to set up its first sets of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for four-wheeler and two-wheeler segments in India.

To start with, the company on Thursday opened five Shell recharge stations at Yeshwanthpur, Marathahalli, Old Madras Road, Brookefield, and on Kanakpura Road on Thursday.

Shell will provide customised charging solutions at on-the-go locations such as Shell fuel stations, standalone EV hubs, home charging, and destination locations.

For on-the-go and standalone EV hubs, the company will deploy 100 kilowatts (KW) and above direct-current (DC) fast chargers to enable fast charging and the lowest possible dwell time, as per company officials.

The company has plans to expand its EV charging infrastructure beyond its existing retail markets of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.

Shell Energy said it has plans to set up over 10,000 such stations across the country by 2030. Shell recharge chargers would be 100% powered by green energy, it said.

Details of SWD encroachments as of September 13, 2022*

Zones/Areas	Number of encroachments identified	Number of encroachments removed in 2016-17	Number of encroachments removed in 2018-19	Number of encroachments removed between Aug. 30 and Sept. 13, 2022	Remaining encroachments to be removed
East	237	3	124	0	110
West	71	11	1	1	58
South	20	0	0	0	20
Koramangala valley	10	7	0	0	3
Yelahanka	588	215	277	11	85
Mahadevapura	1,101	98	867	48	88
Mahadevapura-New	45	0	0	0	45
Bommanahalli	276	40	210	4	22
Bommanahalli-New	66	0	0	0	66
R.R. Nagar	47	38	0	3	6
Dasarahalli	165	16	23	2	124
Total	2,626	428	1,502	69	627

* Data submitted by the BBMP to the High Court of Karnataka

Is there any parallel authority inquiring into SWD issue: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday asked the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) whether any parallel authority was inquiring into the issue of encroachments of storm-water drains (SWDs) in the city and if there was any stay order against removing encroachments.

Also, the court wanted to know from the BBMP counsel whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has given any report on the SWDs of the city.

A division bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty posed these questions orally while adjourning further hearing on the issues of SWDs and pothole repair works till Friday to enable the BBMP counsel to seek instruction from the officers on these queries.

The High Court has been monitoring the issues related to SWDs, lakes and potholes through various petitions over the few years.

Earlier, BBMP counsel V. Sreenidhi submitted a status report on the identification and removal of encroachments of SWDs and pothole filling works prepared by the BBMP's Engineer-in-Chief B.S. Prahlad.

It has been stated in the report that the BBMP undertakes work of desilting of SWDs from time to time and 2,626 encroachments of SWDs were identified during 2016-17 by conducting surveys. While 428 of these encroachments were removed in 2016-17, 1,502 encroachments were cleared in 2018-19 and 69 encroachments were removed between August 30, 2022 and September 13, 2022. The process is underway to remove the remaining 627 encroachments, the report stated. On proposal to install sluice gates in lakes to manage water flow, the BBMP has said that process to prepare a details project report is under way besides seeking the assistance of the Minor Irrigation Department of the Government, which has installed maximum number of sluice gates to the lakes in Chikkaballapura district.

On pothole filling work, the report stated that there were 2,231 major potholes as on September 14, and of these 2,010 potholes have been repaired, and the process of filling 221 is under way.

The report also said that citizens grievance redressal cell in the wards have been set up and their details were notified in newspaper giving names and contact numbers of the engineers besides providing these details in the official website of the BBMP.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sri. Girish Shivanna S/o Sri. Shivanna R/a House No. 227, 1st G Cross, 3rd Stage, 4th Block, Basaveshwara Nagara, Bangalore-79 do here by solemnly affirm oath as in my earlier Pass Port my name has been mentioned as Girisha Shivanna but my true, correct and continue my name as **Sri.Girish Shivanna (New Name)** only in all her future records, deeds, writings, proceedings, transactions private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever vide affidavit sworn before Advocate and Notary P.C.Ramaiah on 15.09.2022.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 01-2022-HAS-GSU-MYS
Closing Date : 10-10-2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Hassan Yard Remodelling : Upgradation of the Std of Interlocking from STD - I to STD - III to provide simultaneous reception / dispatch in all four directions.	Rs.10,15,89,895.38

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 10-10-2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy.CPM/S&T/Gati Shakti Mysuru
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Works Tender Notice
E-Tender No: TPJ-E-19-2022-2023
Date: 14.09.2022

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical General Services) Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites E-Tenders for the under mentioned works for and on behalf of President of India.

1. Name of work: E-Tender **No. TPJ- E- 19- 2022-2023** Tiruchchirappalli Division - Manning & Operation of 500KVA DG sets available in power cars of Train No.12664/12663, TPJ-HWH-TPJ Bi weekly Express of Tiruchchirappalli Division for a period of 2 years.- Service Contract **(Period of Completion:- 24 Months)**

Approx. Value of Tender (Rs): 28,42,560

Earnest Money Deposit (Rs): 56,900/-

Cost of Tender Booklet (Rs): 3,540/-

Tender closing and opening date & time: 10.10.2022 at 15:00 Hrs.

For further details refer to web portal: **www.ireps.gov.in**> E-Tender >Works > View tenders. **Please note that only ONLINE Tenders are accepted and tenders are to be digitally signed.**

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical General Services) Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

IN THE COURT OF THE X Addl CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-26) AT: BANGALORE G.& W.C. No.50/2022

BETWEEN:
(1) Kumar. Tejas M
(2) Kumar. Shreyas M
Since both are minors
Represented by their father
Sri.Meghashyam.V
Residing at No.384/13,1st Floor,
13th 'A' Cross, Vyalikaval,
Bangalore-560 003 .....PETITIONERS

-:AND:-

NIL .....RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE/ NOTICE OF APPEARANCE

WHEREAS, the Petitioners above named have filed the above petition under section 29, 31 read with section 8 of Guardian and Wards Act 1890 seeking permission for appointment of Sri. Meghashyam. V the father of minor petitioners to be appointed as the guardian and also permission to sell the schedule "B" property belongs to minor petitioners share.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in the Court of X Addl. City Civil and Session Judge at Bangalore (CCH - 26) in person or by pleader duly instructed on 15th October 2022 at 11 a.m. information to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and consider respondents are Nil.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing site No. 187, New Corporation No. 44, 12th 'B' Cross, Vyalikaval Extension, Bangalore-560003, consisting of 200 sq. ft., of Ac sheet residential House, the layout formed by the City Improvement Trust, Bangalore.

Site Measuring: East to West : 20ft, North to South: 35 ft. Total admeasuring : 700 Sq. ft.

Bounded on: East by: Site No.186; West by: site No. 188; North by : CITB (BDA) Land; South by: Road;

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Southern portion of immovable property bearing Site No. 187, New Corporation No. 44, 12th 'B' Cross, Vyalikaval Extension, Bangalore - 560003, consisting of 200 sq. ft., of Ac sheet residential house constructed with brick wall, Ac sheet roof, red oxide flooring, Judge wood doors and windows, the layout formed by the City Improvement trust, Bangalore.

Site Measuring: East to West : 20ft. North to South : 25 ft. Total admeasuring : 500 Sq. ft.

Bounded on: East by : Site No. 186; West by : site No. 188; North by : Northern Portion of Site No. 187; South by: Road;

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the entire residential property bearing Municipal No. 13, (old No. 364), having BBMP PID No. 5-43-13, situated at 13th "A" Cross, Vyalikaval, Bengaluru - 560003, measuring East to West 30 feet, and North to South 45 feet, in all measuring 1350 sq. ft and bounded as:

East by : Property No. 363; West by : Property No. 385; North by : Road; South by: Property No. 373;

Along with 1600 Sq. ft of RCC Roofed building, (Ground and First Floor 600 sq. ft., each and Second Floor 400 sq. ft)

Given under my hand and seal of the court this 7th day of September 2022.

By Order of this Court
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court, Bangalore.

ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
SUBRAHMANYA HEGDE, Advocate. ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES
No.76 - 77, Krishna Krupa Building, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020. Mobile: 9060069259

CSIR-INSTITUTE OF MICROBIAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Sector 39-A, Chandigarh - 160 036 (INDIA)
Phone : 0172-2880200, 2880201 Website : www.imtech.res.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Advt. No. 03/2022

Tenders are invited from the interested firms/candidates for **Design & Development of Web Content Management System (WCMS) based Bilingual Website for CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh** on behalf of the Director, CSIR-IMTECH. The detailed tender document can be downloaded from our website **www.imtech.res.in/tenders** . Any subsequent changes or corrigendum in respect to the tender will be available on the website.

Administrative Officer, CSIR-IMTECH

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:CEE/TZB/SEE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/12317 & 12318 Date: 14.09.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites bids against (1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TR/BZ/DEO/93/2022-23 for **Providing Manpower services of Office Attendants 31 Nos.**
(2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TR/BZ/DEO/92/2022-23 for **Providing Manpower services of Data Entry Operators 58 Nos.** required at the office of Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Bengaluru. The bids will be received through Electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on or after 20.09.2022** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink e-Procurement-KPTCL or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.) Transmission Zone, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560009.
Ph: 080-22282601

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that our Client is desirous to purchase the immovable property, more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and herein after referred to as "Schedule Property", from its Owner, **Mrs. PRABHAVATHI FERNANDES**.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or objecting to such sale should lodge their objections and/or claims in writing along with valid, legal documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned within 21 days from the date of publication of this Notice, after which period our Client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Piece and Parcel of the Residential Site bearing No. 8 and thereafter No. 8/2-B and No. 3 and presently bearing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Municipal No.2/2 and PID No.78-123-2/2 situated at Palace Loop Road (Vasanthanagar), Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru-560 052, within BBMP Ward No.78-Vasanthanagar, measuring East to West: (147 + 142)/ 2 ft. and North to South: 100 ft. totally measuring 14,450 sq. ft. and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.17 and 18,
West by : Road,
North by : Site No.9,
South by : Site No.7,

comprised in the Vasanthanagar West Extension Layout formed by the City Improvement Trust Board, Bangalore together with residential building constructed thereon having built up area of 3572 sq. ft. consisting of Ground Floor with garage and First Floor.

Mrs. Bharathi B.V Advocate
10/A, Chandrakiran Building, 2nd Floor, Kasturba Road, Bangalore – 560001
Email: legal@msugroup.in
Mobile: 8722022800/ 9480489539
Date:16/09/2022 Place: Bangalore

Government of Karnataka
(Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation, Division Yadgir - 585202
No.EE/RWS&SD/YDG/JJM TENDER/2022-23/713 Date:12-09-2022

e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Yadgir here by invites Tender on behalf Hon'ble Governor Karnataka from the eligible civil contractor for works approved under JAL JEEVAN MISSION- 2022-23 details as below.

Sl.No	Taluka	Village Name	Estimate cost (Rs.in lakhs)	Indent No.	Eligibility of Contractor	Period of Completion
1	Shahapur	GOGI-K	445.00	46308	Class-II & above	180 Day's
2	Shahapur	GOGI-P	353.50	46309	-- do --	180 Day's
3	Shorapur	RAJANKOLLUR	296.50	46310	-- do --	180 Day's
4	Shorapur	KODEKAL	313.50	46311	-- do --	180 Day's
5	Yadgir	BALLICHAKRA	370.00	46312	-- do --	180 Day's

1) Eligibility of Contractors : Class-II and Above 2) Date of Commencement of downloading of bidding document Date: 16-09-2022 to 30-09-2022 3)Cost of Tender form and EMD : as per e-Procurement 4) Pre Bid Meeting Date: 19-09-2022 & Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division Yadgir at 11.00 am 5) Last Date to Submit bids on e-portal : Date: 30-09-2022 before 4.30 pm 6) Opening of Technical Bid:Date: 03-10-2022 after 11.00 am 7) Opening of Financial Bid : Date: 07-10-2022 after 11.00 am. 8) For more information contact Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division Near Railway Station Yadgir. 9)web site:http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and should be submitted through e-Procurement system only

DIP.Yadagiri/242/MCA/2022-23

Sd/-Executive Engineer RDW&S Division Yadgir

A scene from *Asuran* (2019).

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Waking up to the writer

Writing and screenwriting are two different professions and have to be treated that way

SRIVATSAN. S

There has been a long-standing battle to marry literature and cinema. This has been a beef in Tamil cinema for decades for the simple reason that it did not have a parallel cinema movement as opposed to the neighbouring States of Kerala and West Bengal. Nor did it nurture the idea of a film society movement. This 'invisible wall' so to say, made it even more difficult for the crossover to happen. Very few have succeeded in bringing about a bridge between these two artforms. Film adaptations of popular novels – such as Jayakanthan's *Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal* or Pudhumaipithan's *Chitrannai* – did not translate into more writers coming in. Novelists simply stayed away from films. So much so that Kamal Haasan recalls in an interview how he literally forced the celebrated Tamil writer Sujatha (S. Rangarajan) to write for cinema. Their first and only collaboration was *Vikram* (1986).

The art of screenwriting

Screenwriters with a successful track record – like Salim-Javed in Bollywood – have been far and few in between. Sure there have been successful phases in Tamil cinema: MGR-M. Karunanidhi, the two pillars of the Dravidian movement, were a success story. As were Sivaji Ganesan and Vietnam Veedu Sundaram. C. V. Sridhar often wrote films with his friend Chitralaya Gopu. Then came the Rajini-Kamal era: K Balachander had Ananthu by his side, while Bharathiraja had K. Bhagyaraj. But two of the most influential screenwriting collaborations have come from Kamal Haasan and 'Crazy' Mohan, and Shankar and Sujatha.

There is often a misconception about writing for cinema, as the language that cinema speaks is not literature. A lyrical masterpiece may not necessarily work for cinema. One never knows what will work. In a recent interview, writer B. Jeyamohan discussed how he and Mani Ratnam saw the potential for a lengthy scene from a short piece of text while brainstorming for *Ponniyin Selvan*.

Particularly in the last decade, veteran Tamil-Malayalam author B. Jeyamohan has emerged as one of the important literary voices operating in mainstream Tamil cinema space

That is why when filmmakers often rue over the need for more writers, the argument holds very little water for the simple reason that not all writers qualify as 'screenwriters'. What usually goes for pages in a novel comes to just about a few minutes in films. Writing and screenwriting are two different professions and have to be treated that way.

The need for 'cinema' writers

It is in this context we need to acknowledge the towering contribution of Sujatha. It has been said about Sujatha's works that he was an accessible writer and that truly reflected in the films he wrote for Shankar (*Indian*, *Mudhalvan*, *Sivaji: The Boss* and *Enthiran*) and Mani Ratnam (*Kannathil Muthamittal* and *Aayutha Ezhuthu*). Not just Sujatha but Balakumaran too, who has written dialogues for classics such as *Nayakan*, *Guna*, *Baashha* and *Pudhupettai*, ushered in an easiness to film writing. Having said that, it is even harder to find a writer who knows and appreciates cinema as a form, while at the same time possessing the gift of the mighty pen.

Which is why what Vetri Maaran does is perhaps a wonder. To give an example, the filmmaker infamously said during the release of his blockbuster *Asuran* (2019), adapted from *Vekkai*, that people who have read writer Poomani's novel might not end up liking the film. Because what Asuran was on screen was not Poomani's *Vekkai*. Vetri had taken somebody else's written material and made it his own.

Particularly in the last decade, veteran Tamil-Malayalam author B. Jeyamohan has emerged as one of the important literary voices operating in mainstream Tamil cinema space, in the post Sujatha-era. The position Jeyamohan occupies today is rather delicate. Starting from Bala's *Naan Kadavul* (2009), based on his novel *Yezhaam Ulagam*, Jeyamohan has mostly been a dialogue writer in films such as *Neerparavai* (2012), *Papanasam* (2015) and *Sarkar* (2018) to name a few. The first screenplay he wrote was with Mani Ratnam for *Kadal* (2013), followed by *Kaaviya Thalaivan* (2014) and *2.0* (2018) – all of which were marred by mixed reviews and box-office figures. It is interesting that three upcoming biggies – *Vendhu Thanindhathu Kaadu* (VTK), *Ponniyin Selvan* (PS) and *Viduthalai* – have Jeyamohan in common. It's as if Tamil cinema has suddenly woken up to the writer. Based on his short story, Jeyamohan has written *VTK* with Gautham Menon, while *PS* has dialogues by him. Vetri Maaran's *Viduthalai* too is based on his short story.

The box-office success of the aforementioned films remains crucial for Jeyamohan, more so for Tamil cinema. If they are a success story, then it will give birth to a new beginning in Tamil cinema, ensuring that this cross-pollination is here to stay. In the case of an anti-climax, it remains to be seen if the gap between Tamil cinema and literature would widen further.

THE GIST

- There has been a long-standing battle in the Tamil industry to marry literature and cinema. Film adaptations of popular novels — such as Jayakanthan's *Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal* or Pudhumaipithan's *Chitrannai* — did not translate into more writers coming in.
- There is often a misconception about writing for cinema. A lyrical masterpiece may not necessarily work for cinema. That is why when filmmakers rue over the need for more writers, the argument holds very little water for the simple reason that not all writers qualify as 'screenwriters'. What usually goes for pages in a novel comes to just about a few minutes in films.
- It is hard to find a writer who knows and appreciates cinema as a form, while at the same time possessing the gift of the mighty pen.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

" How do you use 'look up', sir?"

"You know its literal meaning, don't you?

Don't put your head down. Please look up.

'Look up' has several figurative meanings. One is 'to improve in price or prosperity'. When your business is bad and, after some time, it gets better, you say 'My business is looking up', 'automobile shares are looking up'. 'Look up' also means 'to search for a word in a dictionary, facts in a book of reference, etc'.

You don't know the meaning of 'phobia'? Look up the word in the dictionary. If you want to know more about the word, look up a good encyclopedia.

Could you please look up this number in the telephone directory?

Please look up Krishna Express in the railway guide.

A third meaning is 'to pay a call or visit'.

Next time I come to Madras, I will look you up.

I looked up my friend at his office.

If possible, I'll look her up on my way back."

"What is the meaning 'I haven't a clue to what's going on', sir?"

"It means 'I don't know what is going on or I don't understand what's going on'. A clue is 'a fact, or object that helps to solve a mystery or problem'.

The police didn't get any clue to the theft.

'Clue in' means 'to provide with the necessary information.

Please clue me in on what really happened.

This is used in informal contexts. 'Clueless' in British English means 'stupid or ignorant'.

I am clueless about sailing.

I am clueless about gardening."

"What's the difference between 'understand' and 'comprehend', sir?"

"When I say that I understand a person, I mean that I have a fairly clear idea of that particular person. 'Understanding' means a fairly good knowledge of the person or the thing concerned. 'Comprehend' means to understand something in all its aspects. You can understand something without comprehending it. When you comprehend something, you understand it fully, minutely. You understand men and things. You comprehend ideas, principles. You don't say 'I can't comprehend him'. But you can say 'I am not able to comprehend his ideas'. You can understand a poem without being able to comprehend it. To comprehend is more difficult than to understand. Comprehension is more intellectual. Do you understand?"

"Yes, sir. But I can't say that I have comprehended the difference."

"Anyway you understand the difference. That's good. Let us stop here. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme was launched in Tamil Nadu by M.K. Stalin on September 15. Tamil Nadu is also the pioneer of the midday meal scheme, arguably among the best government interventions which links food and nutrition to education and development. How much do you know about this scheme?

1 On November 17, 1920, the Chennai Corporation Council approved a proposal to provide tiffin to the students of a corporation school at a subsidised cost. This was expanded to four schools but discontinued five years later. Who was the man responsible for this?

2 Which Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is the midday meal in the State named after?

3 A human rights body founded by Jayaprakash Narayan argued in the Supreme Court about the right to food. This case was decided in 2001 and midday meals were mandated to be provided by every State and U.T. Which body was this?

4 Recently, the midday meal scheme, which provides one hot cooked meal to students of Classes 1-8 in government and government-aided schools, was revamped to include pre-primary classes too. It was also renamed. What is the scheme called today?

5 How much nutrition in calories are primary and upper primary children supposed to get according to the scheme?

◄ This man, a prominent anti-caste activist in the Madras Presidency, began a famous newspaper which he ran until his death. M.K. Stalin said that the midday meal scheme rose from this man's Buddhist thoughts. Who is this man?

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The metro stations named after Sir MV. **Ans: Sir M. Visveshwaraya Station, Central College, Bengaluru; Sir Vishweshwaraiah Moti Bagh, New Delhi**
2. The freedom fighter who wrote to Sir MV saying that they hold diametrically opposite views. **Ans: Mahatma Gandhi**
3. Name the two reservoirs Sir MV helped build after a flood that occured in 1908. **Ans: Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar, Hyderabad**
4. The two waterfalls that power India's first hydroelectric power station. **Ans: Bharachukki Falls, Gaganachukki Falls**
5. The type of gate installed at the Khadakvasla Reservoir and KRS Dam. **Ans: Automatic gates**
6. The name of this educational institution. **Ans: Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Jnana Sangama**

Early Birds: Varghese Joseph| Shoury Patil

Compiled by: Radhika Santhanam

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

ADVERTISEMENT

A Giant Leap Towards

TRANSFORMING TECHNICAL EDUCATION

UVCE, soon to be institute of national pride

Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai says, in next eight years, University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) will be elevated to the position of eminence in the league of the IITs, IIMs

It was the year 1917. Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, considered to be among the most progressive kings of his time, was ruling Mysore. Sir M. Visvesvaraya, equally talented and a visionary, was his Diwan. The dreams and plans that both of them had for the development of the then Mysore State have remained eternal even after a hundred years have passed.

And they seem very relevant even now. One of them is the establishment of a government engineering college at a strategic location in Bengaluru. The college is now 107 years old and is located within walking distance of the Vidhana Soudha, Central College and SJ Polytechnic. Then, the institution was called the Government Engineering College and later became University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), and today, it is Sir M. Visvesvaraya Engineering University.

It is pertinent to note that this was the first engineering college established in the then State of Mysore and the fifth in the entire country. It was the view of Krishnaraja Wodeyar and Sir M.V. that such a college was needed to create talented people with all the technical and engineering skills required for a modern world. The institution has lived up to the dreams they envisioned, and has produced some eminent personalities like Dr.V.K.Atre, M.R. Srinivas, Roddam Narasimha, Prahlad, Anuradha, Vijaya Bhaskar, Ramesh Aravind and many others.

However, it seemed like this glorious era was fading. This red building, camouflaged behind a canopy of trees in Bengaluru's Krishnaraja Circle, was in a dilapidated condition a few years ago, and became just one amongst the many engineering colleges in the State. This is when our Government in Karnataka decided to revive this proud institution, which could have otherwise faded into memory.

Three years ago, when our Government came into existence in the State, Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayan took over the responsibility of the higher education department, we discussed the history of UVCE, importance and its contributions to the nation building process. I myself had long dreamt of studying in the reputed UVCE college. We concurred this institution was in dire need of holistic revamp.

Experts suggested that UVCE should be converted into an institution of excellence on the lines of IITs and IIMs in the country. On these lines, we instituted a Committee under the leadership of Professor S Sadagopan to suggest how UVCE could be made a symbol of national pride and be elevated to the status of IITs or IIMs.

The Committee suggested fundamental and profound changes and noted that the college should be made an independent and autonomous university, and this university should be financially, academically and administratively independent and autonomous in all respects. We accepted the Committee's recommendation and a notification in this regard was also issued in February 2022, followed by allocating a budget of Rs. 150 crore annually to this purpose. Recently, the Cabinet has approved Rs. 85 crore for improvement of the Mechanical Block.

Like IITs and IIMs, this too will be a government-private partnership model. In addition, the Board of Directors shall have complete independence to oversee all the affairs of the institution. B.Muthuraman, B.Tech from IIT Madras and MBA from XLRI Institute, Jamshedpur, served as vice-president in Tata Steel, has been appointed as the first Chairman of this new University. Like him, there are many experienced members in the management board.

They shall design the curriculum to suit the contemporary needs and recruit experienced faculty to deliver them. The renovation of the University has now just begun at a cost of Rs. 10 crore and every possible step is being taken to bring back its sheen. The Alumni Association headed by Major General Neelakanthappa has set up a state-of-the-art laboratory and they have promised to invest another Rs. 30 crore more.

In the next eight years, by 2030, I dream of bringing back the lost glory of this renowned college and elevate it to a position of eminence in the league of the IITs, IIMs and other global centres of technical excellence. In this regard, the University shall be formally inaugurated on Sir M. Visvesvaraya's birthday September 15 and the Higher Education Department shall release a roadmap of how the University shall shape up by 2030.

'Autonomy implies freedom to choose the best'

In an Interview, Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan, Minister for Higher Education, shares his vision of enhancing quality of technical education to global standards and to develop UVCE among best Institutions in the country

Why is the Government upgrading UVCE to autonomous status? Is this just a change of status or will it transform technical education in Karnataka?

Giving UVCE an autonomous and independent status will indeed transform technical education at UVCE, and in due course, in Karnataka and India. Autonomy in matters of finance, academic and administrative matters are fundamental to superior and world class education.

Will it be on par with IITs? What is the vision?

Absolutely. The vision as envisioned by the Chief Minister of Karnataka is to transform UVCE to be among the best in the nation for technical education by 2030.

You say you want to develop UVCE into an institute of Eminence. Can you explain what you mean by it?

Institute of eminence means highest level of standard in everything it does. Be it quality of faculty, relevance of curriculum, collaborative research with industry, and eventually building world class engineers.

You are making UVCE an autonomous university. How will it help in improving quality and equity of education?

Autonomy implies freedom to choose the best and relevant curriculum, best faculty, provide the best Infrastructure to cater to the needs of meritorious students of all sections of society.

When you talk of autonomous, what is the freedom the institute gets and how will it be structured? What will be the role of the government here?

UVCE as an autonomous institution will have a close and strong relationship with industry and alumni and to have a finance structure where there is a balance between contributions from industry/alumni, fees and contribution from the State Government. We aim to achieve these by 2030. While UVCE will be independent and autonomous in all its functions, it will continue to be owned by the state government.

Will you allow participation of government, private institutions and organisations both in India and overseas?

Yes, very much. Industry will be very much a part of the future of UVCE in terms of collaborative research work, setting up relevant curriculum, support in teaching, financial grants, etc.

Also how will it help to improve employability and research of our youth and increase job opportunities?

Providing better teaching and learning ambience will, naturally, result in the students passing out of UVCE better equipped to meet the demands of the present day job opportunities and therefore provide them with good career opportunities. Also they become globally competent engineers.

How will you establish better connect with the industry? What steps are being taken?

Bangalore and Karnataka are well known for technology and industry. Industry will be contacted and offered research work from UVCE which will be useful to the industry. In long term, this collaboration between UVCE and industry will further improve the quality of research work and teaching at UVCE. One will feed on the other for the betterment of both.

How this initiative fits in the overall National Education Policy 2020?

It is indeed very much in line with NEP 2020. NEP stipulates that the practice of affiliating colleges to a university should be discontinued and such colleges should equip themselves to become universities, which will give necessary autonomy and governance structure to keep up with modern times.

What is your view on making the prestigious institution named after Sir M Visvesvaraya?

Sir. M. Visvesvaraya was not only a great engineer from Karnataka, he was an all time great engineer of India and even in the world. His contribution to the development of Karnataka is immense. He had a big role to play in many important projects at the national level. He is the one who started the fifth oldest engineering college of India, in Karnataka, in the name of Government Engineering College, which later became UVCE. It is only fitting that the first institute of state eminence in Karnataka bears his name.

Will this be the model institution for other states to emulate, thereby setting the trend for the country to follow?

Yes. This is what I expect to happen in due course.

You had talked about vision 2030 for higher education. What does that entail and what progress have you made towards achieving this?

Karnataka has, over the years, taken several steps towards enhancing higher technical education. The State has been the leader in implementing the NEP. The creation of UVCE as an autonomous, independent university is a major step towards making technical education to world class standards.

An engineer par excellence

Engineer's Day is celebrated every year on September 15 which marks the birth anniversary of Sir M Visvesvaraya or Sir MV as he was famously known. Sir MV was a great visionary, true patriot, philanthropist and humanist.

Sir MV's achievements are beyond anybody's imagination and comprehension. He was an engineer par excellence who had vision and foresight to respond to the needs of farmers, poor and unemployed. He designed water and sewage systems in 16 cities and he is revered in Karnataka for his contribution to improve the quality of life here. Sir MV was a statesman who felt the pulse of his citizens and brought industries, education and water thus growth, prosperity and development to the State. He was a disciplinarian who instilled confidence in fellow beings and was a role model to aspiring society.

Sir MV's address to the gathering at UVCE on January 27, 1955 focussed on nuclear engineering. This reflects how sharp his mind was and also gives an insight into his forethoughts. He also had spoken about establishing consultancy firms for engineers to enlarge the scope of employment. Hence, Sir MV is regarded as an engineer par excellence, who perfectly engineered the lives of many.

"Restoring UVCE's past glory is our goal"

I am an engineer from UVCE, and a gold medalist too. I went to IIT-Delhi for M.Tech, post which I served here as a lecturer for 6 years. I share a strong bond of more than 10 years with this college. When compared to those days, we have world class infrastructure now. This transformation has been possible because of Hon'ble CM Basavaraj Bommai and Dr CN Ashwathnarayan, an ardent believer of quality education. We should all work togther to restore the past glory of this great institution. UVCE has brought recognition and reward to many a people like me. Let us all join hands in rejuvenating this excellent institution and making it a model, not just in our State, but across the country.

Manjunath Prasad,
Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister

Today's launch of UVCE by the Hon'ble Chief Minister is part of a much larger vision within the overall NEP. Karnataka has been a leader in the country in many spheres including Scientific & Defence R&D, IT and Biotech for decades; along with the other projects, the launch of UVCE would create a formidable number one position for Karnataka in the entire higher education space. The transformational projects under the Vision Group on higher education include Karnataka Higher Education Institutions Bill and RETE (Regional Ecosystem for Technical Excellence) and Karnataka Institutes of Technology.

Prof. S Sadagopan,
Former Director, IIIT Bangalore

"Experts on education from Karnataka played a significant role in the formulation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Karnataka has been the leader in implementing the NEP. Now, the Govt of Karnataka has taken yet another path breaking initiative in converting UVCE, hitherto a constituent college of Bangalore University into an autonomous, independent University, with an aspiration and vision to make it one of the best institutes for technical education in the country, along the lines of IITs. This move will transform technical education to world class levels not only in Karnataka but in the whole of India, over time. This bold and visionary initiative will have a strong impact on the progress of technology and innovation in the country. This is really the Vision and foresight of the Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister of Karnataka piloted by the Dr. Ashwath Narayan, Minister for Higher Education into fruition. As the saying goes, "Vision combined with Action can change the world"

B Muthuraman
Chairman of UVCE Board of Governors

"It was a privilege to be part of 'The Prof. Sadagopan Expert Committee' consisting of eminent and most experienced people that moved at lightning speed, especially during peak of Covid, conducting virtual meetings to submit UVCE Act in less than 60 days to make UVCE Autonomous, and after many iterations got the UVCE Act to a finish line. UVCE Students and Alumni will be eternally grateful for this."

B V Jagadeesh, UVCE Alumni (1978 Batch),
Silicon Valley-based serial entrepreneur, Philanthropist & Mentor

UVCE's illustrious Alumni

- Dr. V K Atre, Former Adviser to Defence Minister
- M R Srinivasan, Nuclear Scientist
- Roddam Narasimhan, Aeronautical Scientist
- Anuradha T K, ISRO Project Director
- Vijaya Bhaskar, Famous Musician
- Ramesh Aravind, Famous Actor
- R. Ganesh, Centenarian and Famous Sanskrit Scholar
- Duttanna, Wing Commander
- Mano Murthy, Famous Music Composer
- G. Kumar Naik, IAS officer
- Manjunath Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary to Karnataka Government and Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister
- Major General Neelakanthappa, Present President of Alumni Association comprising 1,000 Life Members

Purple Line services hit owing to technical fault

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Namma Metro operations on the Purple Line, between Baiyyappanahalli and Kengeri, were hit for a few hours on Thursday morning due to a technical snag.

The trains ran in 25 to 30 minute intervals as the movement had to be restricted to a single track due to a possible breakage in the rails between Kengeri and Mysuru Road stations.

Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials said that the services were restored to regular timings by noon.

"There were issues with the rails between the two stations, it was suspected. By afternoon, the issues were fixed and operations were back to normal," said B.L. Yashwant Chavan, spokesperson, BMRCL.

The Purple Line is taken by many who travel to the Central Business District. It also connects other parts of the city to the IT parks near Baiyyappanahalli.

While some commuters waited complaining about the delay, many took alternative modes of transport.

"As I could not be late to work, I had to catch an auto," said Mamatha R., a bank employee.

Man selling duplicate watches held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

CCB officials arrested a man selling duplicate watches of international brands on the footpath of HKP Road in Shivaji Nagar on Thursday. Based on a tip-off, a police team arrested Syed Ahmed and seized the watches from him.

Ahmed told the police that he had sourced the watches from his contacts in Mumbai and sold it in the Shivaji Nagar area due to demand.

The police suspect that he is part of an inter-State racket. The accused has been taken into custody for questioning.

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E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tenders are invited for the following work:

Title of work	**Modification to DOS Office at ISRO HQ, Anthariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru-Civil & PH Works.**
Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/06/ 2022-23 Dtd: 15.09.2022**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 128.20 lakhs**
Period of Completion in months	**Three (03) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:10 Hrs on 15.09.2022 To: 23:59 Hrs on 26.09.2022**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 14:30 Hrs on 29.09.2022**
Due date and time for opening of tenders	**16:30 Hrs on 30.09.2022**
EMD	**Rs.2,56,400/-.**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed tender notice on **www.isro.gov.in/tender** Detailed tender notice and tender documents can be downloaded from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head CMG, ISRO HQ

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
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No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT12885 Date:08.09.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through e-procurement portal only) (Two Cover System)
Bids are invitied through GOK e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from qualified agencies for the work of **"Replacing of the existing old lift with a new Rack and Pinion lift of 1000 kgs capacity along with Design, Manufacturing, Transportation, Storing, Erection, Testing, Commissioning and handing over of one No. of lift including one year free maintenance at U#1 Seceondary Crusher House (SCH), BTPS."** Last date and time for submission of bids: **10.10.2022 upto 16:00 hrs**. Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CAM-1)**, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583 152. Ballari dist. Mob: 9448290572.

IN THE COURT OF THE 4TH ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT MAYO HALL BENGALURU (CCH No. 21)
O.S. No. 25208 of 2018

BETWEEN: SHRI C.D. VELUMANI, S/o Late C.N. Damodaran, aged about 48 years, R/at 849, 3rd Cross, Muthyalanagar, MES Main Road, Gokul Post, Bangalore-560054. Represented by GPA Holder C.D. Gnanamani, S/o Late C.N. Damodaran, aged about 46 years, R/at No. 38, 100 ft. Road, Muniswamy Layout, Next to Andhra Bank, Dodda Banaswadi, Bangalore-560 043. ... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: 1. SHRI MAHENDRANATH, S/o Late Shri Pushparaj, aged about 35 years, R/at No. 235, II Block, 5th D Main Road, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560043. **2. THE CHAIRMAN**, Bangalore Development Authority, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park (West), Bangalore-560 020. **3. THE COMMISSONER**, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Corporation Building, J.C. Road, Bangalore- 560 002. **4. GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**, Represented by its Chief Secretary to Government Vidhana Soudha, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001. ... **DEFENDANTS**

COURT NOTICE
Service of Notice by Paper Publication under Order 5 Rule 20(1) of CPC

DEFENDANT No. 1:
SHRI MAHENDRANATH

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit for Declaration Mandatory and Permanent Injunction against you. The Hon'ble Court has issued emergent notice of suit through paper publication. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court on **08-11-2022** at 11 am in person or through a pleader failing which the suit will be disposed off ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

All that portion of residential site bearing No. 38, Dodda Banaswadi Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to West 20 feet and North to South 20 feet bounded on **East by:** Property owned by C.D. Manoharan, **West by:** Open Space and 100 ft Road (formerly 20 feet road), **North by:** Site No. 35, **South by:** Property owned by C.D. Shivanandan.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 13-09-2022.

By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff:
SREEVATSA ASSOCIATES
No. 50, II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-38.

IN THE COURT OF THE 73RD ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL BENGALURU
O.S. No. 15717 of 2004 (CCH No. 74)

BETWEEN: 1. SRI. V. MUNIRAJU, aged about 55 years, S/o Late Venkatappa, R/at No. 1, Annasandrapalya, HAL Post, Bengaluru-560 017. **2. SRI BABU REDDY**, aged about 33 years, S/o Late V. Yellappa Reddy, **3. SRI. Y RAMASHEKHARA REDDY**, aged about 30 years, S/o Late V. Yellappa Reddy, **4. SRI. Y. CHANDRA REDDY**, aged about 27 years, S/o Late V. Yellappa Reddy, Plaintiffs No. 2 to No. 4 are R/at No. 120/1, Annasandrapalya, HAL Post, Bengaluru-560 017.... **PLAINTIFFS**

AND: 1. THE SECRETARY, THE THALACAUVERY HOUSE BUILDING CO-OP SOCIETY LTD., No. 17, Om Nivasa, 5th Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009. **2. SRI. ARIEF ALI**, Major by age, Father's name not known to the Plaintiffs, R/at No. 14, A Cross, Anglo Indian Street, Austin Town, Bengaluru-560 047. **3. M/s AKASH HOMES**, Promoters and Builders, No. 1, Diamond Nest, No. 99, N.R. Colony, office at Air Port Road, Opp. Kemp Fort, Bengaluru-560017. Represented by its Director Sri. Narayan Singh. **4. SRI. JOY THOMOS**, aged about 45 years, Fathers name is not known to the Plaintiff, R/at 7th Cross, Vinayaknagar, Annasandrapalya Extension, Bengaluru-560017.... **DEFENDANTS**

COURT NOTICE
Service of Notice by Paper Publication under Order V Rule 20(1) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908

DEFENDANT No. 4 SRI. JOY THOMOS

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit for Declaration Mandatory and Permanent Injunction against you. The Hon'ble Court has issued emergent notice of suit through paper publication. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court on **03-11-2022** at 11 am in person or through a pleader failing which the suit will be disposed off ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of 9 ½ guntas of land in Sy. No. 188 and No. 189 of Vibhutipura Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, having HASB K. No. 1058/B and No. 1058/C (Presently Bengaluru East Taluk) and bounded on: **East by:** Chikkabbiah's Property, **West by:** Bidarahalli Ramaiah's property, now road and Defendant's property, **North by:** Veerasimhrasandra Madalu Bhoomi and Defendant's, **South by:** Raj Kaluve and Road.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 13-09-2022.

By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Maya Hall Unit, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff:
SREEVATSA ASSOCIATES
No. 50, II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-38.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 72nd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 73)
O.S. NO. 25157/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
V/s.
Mr. David Mathew ...Defendant

Summons to Defendant

Mr. David Mathew
S/o. David Mathew,
Aged About 53 Years, No. 2, KKM Residency, 1st Cross, Ullasappa, At. Thomas Town, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560 084.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 9,01,911.39/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs One Thousand Nine Hundred Eleven Paise Thirty Nine Only)** apart from future interest of 11.29% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25157/2020** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-73,** Before 72nd Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 12th Day of October, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 05th day of September 2022.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1,
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 28th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 29)
O.S. NO. 25087/2020

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/S.
Mr. Syed Ismail ...Defendant

Summons to Defendant

Mr. Syed Ismail,
S/o. Mr. Syed Saleem,
Aged About 31 Years, Old No. 547, New No.12, 1st Main Road, 11th Cross, Hidauath Nagar, Vinayaka Temple Road, Bangalore- 560045.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 3,53,034.44/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Thirty Four Paise Forty Four Only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25087/2020** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-29,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 10th Day of November, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 02nd day of September, 2022.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No. 11/1,
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 21)
O.S. NO. 25361/2020

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/s.
Mr. Stephen Vinod Kumar ...Defendant

Summons to Defendant

Mr. Stephen Vinod Kumar,
S/o. Mr. Anandan Vasudevan,
Aged About 26 Years, No. 892, Periyar Nagar, BSA Road Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.3,08,599.19/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Nine and Paise Nineteen Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25361/2020** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-21,** Before IV Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 27th Day of October, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 05th day of September 2022.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No. 11/1,
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF XX ADDITIONAL JUDGE CITY CIVIL COURT AT ALLIKULAM, CHENNAI
05/0008163/2021

K. Gandhi, Proprietor of
M/s Sri Meenakshi Transports,
Having its office at
No.Vaishnavihar, No.72, Anjugam Nagar, 3rd Street, Jaffarkhanpet,
Chennai 600 083. ...Plaintiff

Vs.

M/s Vijay Nirman Company Pvt Ltd.,
Regional Office at
No.264,(Varsiddhi)4th Cross,
RMV Extension, 2nd stage, 2nd Block,
Bangalore 560 094,
Karnataka, India. ...Defendants

To
M/s Vijay Nirman Company Pvt Ltd.,
Regional Office at
No.264,(Varsiddhi)4th Cross,
RMV Extension, 2nd stage, 2nd Block,
Bangalore 560 094,
Karnataka, India

This is to inform you that the above named Plaintiff filed the above suit against you for recovery of amount before the above said Hon'ble Court, wherein the Hon'ble Court was pleased to issue notice through publication which is returnable by **28.09.2022**. So, kindly be present in the above said case before the above said Hon'ble Court on **28.09.2022 at 10.30 am** either in person or through Counsel failing which the above said Suit will be decided ex-parte.

Dated at Chennai this the 9th day of September, 2022

M.S. VELUSAMY
91 Law Chambers,
High Court Buildings,
Chennai 600 104
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF
Mobile: 94440 39968

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 28th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 29)
O.S. NO. 26362/2019

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G.
AND
MS. NISHA B, D/o. Srinivasan Naidu Boopathi, Aged about 28 years No. 1227/9, 5th Cross, 11th Main Road, Prakashnagar, Navrang, Bangalore- 560021

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 2,90,982.31/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Two and Paise Thirty One Only)**, apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 26362/2019** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH- 29,** Before Addl., City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 10 Day of November 2022 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 02 day of September/ 2022

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1,
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 21)
O.S. NO. 26464/2020

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/s.
Mr. Binay Kumar ...Defendant

Summons to Defendant

Mr. Binay Kumar, S/o Mr. Jay Dev Singh, Aged About 41 Years, 123/4, 2nd Floor, BFS Layout, Arekere, 2nd Cross, Late Hanumanthappa Raod, Bangalore- 560076.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.3,14,588.82/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight and Paise Eighty Two Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 26464/2020** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH- 21,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 21th Day of October, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 08th day of September 2022.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No. 11/1,
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 20)
O.S. NO. 25367/2019

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
AND
Ms. Shagufta M,
D/o. Mr. Mohammed Abdul Raheman, Aged about 32 years, No.81/4, Chanakya Layout, 3rd Cross, Nagavara, Opp. Manyatha Business Tech Park, Bangalore-560045. **...Defendant**

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,05,998.14/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Eight and Paise Fourteen Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25367/2019** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH- 20,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 04th Day of November, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 09th day of September, 2022.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No. 11/1,
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 21)
O.S. NO. 25348/2020

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/S.
Mr. Mohammed Chand G ...Defendant

Summons to Defendent

Mr. Mohammed Chand G,
S/o. Mr. Mohammed Gouse,
Aged About 28 Years,
No. 123, 8th Cross, Yaseen Nagar, HBR Layout, Near Wisdom School, Bangalore-560043

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 2,91,217.92/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen and Paise Ninety Two Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25348/2020** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-21,** Before IV Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 27th Day of October, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 05th day of September, 2022.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No. 11/1,
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF 23rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 74)
O.S. NO. 25414/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/S.
Mr. Muralidhara H L ...Defendant

Summons to Defendent

Mr. Muralidhara H L,
S/o. Mr. Lakkappa Gowda,
Aged About 46 Years, 42, Trupati, 4th Cross, Near SBI Bank, ST. Extension, Bangalore- 560003.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,46,180.67/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty Six Thousand One Hundred Eighty and Paise Sixty Seven Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25414/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH- 74,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **10th Day of October, 2022** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **13th day of September, 2022.**

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1,
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Mandya

No. 06/2022-2023 Dated: 12-09-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR Improvements/Construction to road works in Mandya District

Tender in One/Two cover system is invited from qualified Eligible contractors for the works pertaining to **Mandya Division** through e-procurement portal as per Standard bid document KW- **1, 2 & 3**. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Documents may be downloaded from 21-09-2022. Last date for Queries 30-09-2022 upto 4.00 pm, Last date for submission of tender 30-09-2022 upto 4.30 pm, Date of opening Technical bid 01-10-2022 at 11.00 am onwards, Financial bid upto Rs. 50.00 Lakhs will be opened on 01-10-2022 at 11.00 am onwards or next Office working days. Financial bid Above Rs. 50.00 Lakhs will be opened on 03-10-2022 at 11.00 am onwards or next office working day. Tender Processing Fees as per E-Procurement & Duration including Monsoon 2/3/4 months, Number of works: 15, Estimate Amount Maximum Rs. **100.00** Lakhs, Minimum Rs. **2.00** Lakhs, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the above office during Office Hours.

Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only in e-procurement portal.

Sd/- EE., PWD Division, Mandya

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Mandya

No. 08/2022-2023 Dated: 14-09-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR Improvements/Construction to road works in Mandya District

Tender in One/Two cover system is invited from qualified Eligible contractors for the works pertaining to **Mandya Division** through e-procurement portal as per Standard bid document KW- **1, 2 & 4**. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Pre-bid Meeting only for KW-4, Works will be held on 20-09-2022 (More than 100.00 Lakhs only) at 11.00 am in the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Mandya. Documents may be downloaded from 15-09-2022. Last date for Queries 22-09-2022 upto 4.00 pm, Last date for submission of tender 23-09-2022 upto 4.30 pm, Date of opening Technical bid 26-09-2022 at 11.00 am onwards, Financial bid upto Rs. 50.00 Lakhs will be opened on 26-09-2022 at 11.00 am onwards or next Office working days. Financial bid Above Rs. 50.00 Lakhs will be opened on 28-09-2022 at 11.00 am onwards or next office working day. Tender Processing Fees as per E-Procurement & Duration including Monsoon 2/4/6 months, Number of works: 4, Estimate Amount Maximum Rs. **315.00** Lakhs, Minimum Rs. **7.75** Lakhs, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the above office during Office Hours.

Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only in e-procurement portal.

Sd/- EE., PWD Division, Mandya

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, SEP. 16	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:20
RISE	22:49 SET 11:11
SATURDAY, SEP. 17	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:19
RISE	23:37 SET 12:03
SUNDAY, SEP. 18	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:19
RISE	00:00 SET 12:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain or thundershower is possible.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at some places.

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Reserved funds to be used to teach 'Vedic' maths for SC/ST students

Dalit activists have criticised move, saying it amounts to 'diversion' of funds

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

In a move that has drawn criticism from Dalit activists, the Karnataka government has set aside funds from the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) to hold 'Vedic' mathematics classes for SC/ST students in government schools in gram panchayat limits, from Class V to Class VIII, across the State.

The project is being conducted by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

The government has entrusted this programme to AVM Academy, Hiriyur. The academy had submitted a proposal to the government seeking permission to teach Vedic mathematics "with appropriate uniform" for the 25 SC/ST students from each gram panchayat from SCSP and TSP funds.

The government gave permission to the academy on January 6, 2022. The academy held its first training session for 25 government school mathematics teachers to hold classes in Sidlaghatta taluk of Chickballapur district on Thursday.

> **For centuries, SC/STs and Shudra communities were kept away from education and learning of Vedas. Now, as a part of saffronisation of our education system, the government is thrusting Vedic mathematics on us.**
> LAKSHMI NARAYANA NAGAVARA, Dalit activist

How they teach

The trained teachers will teach Vedic mathematics for 16 weeks for two hours every Saturday and Sunday after school as part of the programme. The academy will provide separate uniform for the children for this particular classes.

Subramanya, representative of AVM Academy, told *The Hindu*, "It is an ancient method of learning mathematics easily. We will teach multiplication, division, subtraction, and other aspects in a simple way. In this method, children who don't even know tables also can easily solve lengthy problems."

He further said, "We will provide training for teachers across the State. We will also provide teaching kits to the teachers and learning kits to the children."

Opposition

The project has been opposed by Dalit organisations and educationists.

V.P. Niranjanaradhya, development educationist, argued that teaching Vedic mathematics would only confuse children who are already learning under one methodology. "The government is experimenting with such unwanted programmes only on government school children. This is another step in saffronisation of our education system," he said.

Dalit activist Lakshmi Narayana Nagavara said, "For centuries, SC/STs and Shudra communities were kept away from education and learning of Vedas. Now, as a part of saffronisation of our education system, the government is thrusting Vedic mathematics on us. Our children were learning mathematics successfully, without any Vedic mathematics since decades and achieved a lot of things."

Mavalli Shankar, another Dalit activist, opposed using the SCSP and TSP funds for such activities rather than developmental programmes of the SC/STs. He said that it amounted to "diversion" and it is an offence.

Deputy tahsildar trapped

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Lokayukta officials on Thursday trapped deputy tahsildar of North division while allegedly accepting a bribe from a landowner for an official favour.

The accused, P.M. Srikanth, was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act and taken into custody for further investigation.

According to the officials, Raghushankar, a resident of Kodigehalli, had applied to get genuinity certificate for his land which was taken over by the BDA. Mr. Raghushankar had applied for the certified copies to seek compensation from the BDA.

The accused allegedly demanded ₹13 lakh from Mr. Raghushankar for the job and was trapped red-handed while receiving the first installment of ₹45,000, said officials.

Workshop organised

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Corporation Limited (LIDKAR), a State government undertaking, on Wednesday organised a workshop for leather artisans from Bengaluru.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Linganna, chairman, LIDKAR, called upon the artisans working on the roadside to take advantage of the SCSP schemes being implemented in 36 departments of the government.

THE HINDU
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CET ranking: HC to hear appeal on Sept. 19

A single judge had quashed CET-2022 ranking for UG engineering courses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court will hear on September 19 the appeal filed by the State government challenging a single judge's September 3 order of quashing CET-2022 ranking for undergraduate engineering courses and directing the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to redo the ranking by taking II PU marks and CET-2022 marks in the ratio of 50:50, even for students who passed II PU in 2021.

FROM THE COURT

The appeal came up before a Division Bench, comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty, on Thursday, and the Bench said that it would hear the appeal on September 19 as there were procedural defects in the appeal, which the government had to rectify.

The government, in its appeal, has contended that students, who passed II PU in 2021 by taking benefit of the marks awarded by way of a special methodology owing to non-conduct of exams in view of COVID-19, and reappeared for CET-2022 could not be equated with those who passed II PU in 2022 by writing full-fledged exams for consideration of 50% marks of the II PU exam for allotting ranks.

Different yardsticks

The single judge had said that the government could not have have adopted two different yardsticks, for the students passed II PU in 2021 and in 2022, for allotting ranks in CET-2022.

The KEA too has filed a separate appeal challenging the single judge's verdict.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (September 16, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained |** The Eastern Economic Forum and India's balancing act bit.ly/forumexp

Online exclusives

- **Opinion |** How to think like Albert Einstein bit.ly/einsteinopinion
- **Sci-Five |** The Hindu Science Quiz: Space agencies and programmes bit.ly/spacequizscience
- **Explained** What Ethereum's Merge means to cryptocurrencies' future? bit.ly/ethemerge
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Four persons arrested for stopping inter-faith marriage in Chikkamagaluru district

According to the police, accused are said to be associated with Bajrang Dal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Chikkamagaluru Police, on Thursday, arrested four persons on charges of stopping an inter-faith marriage. The arrested are Shama, Guru, Prasad and Parthibhan. They are all said to be associated with Bajrang Dal.

The accused stopped the marriage of a Hindu girl to a Muslim boy at the office of the sub-registrar in the city on Wednesday.

Boy files complaint

Based on the complaint filed by the boy, the police registered the case against the four activists. Uma Prashanth, Chikkamagaluru SP, told *The Hindu* that the accused had been arrested.

The girl had been kept at Swadhara, a rehabilitation centre for women. The boy, who was allegedly assaulted by the accused, had gone home.

The boy and girl, both residents of Lakshmipura in Chikkamagaluru taluk had been in love for about two years.

However, the activists of Bajrang Dal activists stopped their marriage. The girl's mother Shobha had been in support of the marriage.

Vegetable prices burn a hole in pockets

Costs shoot up owing to heavy rains in the vegetable growing regions

ADITI SETH
PARI CHHABRA
BENGALURU

Vegetable prices in the city have once again shot up due to the heavy rainfall in the last few weeks in the vegetable growing regions of the State, including Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagaram districts that are major suppliers of vegetables and fresh greens to the city.

Supply has taken a serious hit, while demand continues to be high due to the ongoing season of festivals and functions. The availability of green leafy vegetables has especially been greatly affected, as the rains destroyed crops and also affected the quality of the crop that could be harvested.

A bunch of coriander is priced at ₹80 to ₹90 at many retail stores, while fenugreek and spinach have also touched close to ₹30 per bunch. On the wholesale front, coriander is priced at ₹200 per kg while fenugreek has risen from ₹80 to ₹180 per kg.

At retail markets, the price of beans has almost tripled from ₹30 per kg last week to ₹80 this week. This has been followed by tomatoes, which went up from ₹18 per kg to ₹34 this week.

Carrots, drumsticks, and potatoes are some of the other vegetables which have seen a price rise.

Prices of vegetables in retail markets

Vegetable	Prices at retail markets as of Sept. 14 (in ₹ per kg)	Prices at retail markets last week (in ₹ per kg)
Beans	80	32
Carrot	70	50
Tomato	34	18
Cucumber	28	16
Drumsticks	90	69
Lemon	120	100

Rice too gets expensive

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

In just a week to 10 days, the price of rice has gone up in retail stores. The traders attribute the rise to the levying of GST on rice bags. The GST Council recently levied 5% GST on pre-packed and labelled food items up to 25 kg.

The price of a kilogram of Sona Masuri rice has gone from ₹42 to ₹52 and Kollam rice has also touched ₹50 per kg from the earlier ₹40. "The trader told me that whatever GST is levied upon a bag of rice, is being transferred accordingly to each kilogram," said a customer in Hanumantha Nagar.

"There's a lot of shortage of green vegetables like coriander, fenugreek, mint, and spinach. Beans are also in short supply. The prices of commonly used everyday vegetables are touching the sky as they spoil very quickly due to the damp conditions everywhere," said Venkatesh, a mandi manager in Kalasipalya wholesale market.

Observing the trends, the traders said that the prices will keep increasing as the Dasara and Deepavali festivals are coming up soon.

"For various reasons, the prices of vegetables have been on the rise these days. A bunch of coriander leaves is ₹80 near my house and a kg of beans also cost the same. It is not possible for us to skip vegetables as vegetarians," said Shashikala R., a resident of Amruthahalli.

Onion traders depend on stock from Maharashtra

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The rains have also damaged onions in the State. However, this has not caused much difference in prices, as stock from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh is coming in regularly.

Good prices

"Onion growers in Maharashtra have gotten good prices for two years and hence they have taken to the crop in large numbers this year too. They have also set up good infrastructure to store the bulbs. In Karnataka, the situation is such that farmers cannot even step into the fields. On top of this, the government has bought a significant amount from farmers for lower prices. Due to this, the supply chain is balanced for now, but if it rains continuously again, then the prices might increase," said Ravi, an onion trader at APMC, Yeshwanthpur.

The price is currently at ₹20 per kg.

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A file photo of the Indira Canteen at Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru.

One of the few successful Indira Canteens, at the K.R. Market bus stand, in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

How Indira Canteens started

- On **August 16, 2017**, the Congress government, led by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, launched Indira Canteens
- The canteen follows the **Amma Canteens model** in Tamil Nadu
- **174 fixed Indira Canteens** and **24 mobile canteens** have been serving lakhs of citizens in Bengaluru
- The **canteen system** operates on a hub-and-spoke model
- **₹5** for breakfast, and **₹10** each for lunch and dinner. Total of **₹25** for a whole day's food

Present condition of the canteens

- Lack of funds allocated to the canteens; BBMP has earmarked just **₹60 crore** in the 2022-23 budget
- In 2017-18 and 2018-2019, the then government allocated **₹100 crores** and **₹145 crores** respectively
- In the first two years, the food was distributed to **300 to 400 people** at one canteen per day
- Now, it has reduced to **100 to 50 people** each, BBMP officials admit
- Three vendors - **Chef Talk, Rewards and Adamya Chetana** - provide food
- Vendors provide food for **₹55.30 for three meals a day**, which is borne by BBMP
- BBMP has proposed to give the contract to **ISKCON**

Indira Canteen, meant to feed urban poor, is now starved of funds

BBMP admits to dip in patronage, while customers say quality has suffered. The civic body is now mulling relocating some of them

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.
BENGALURU

Chandra Kumar, a migrant construction worker from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh, along with his two children and wife, work in various construction sites in and around Arekere in South Bengaluru. They depended on the Indira Canteen in Ward 186 for the last five months for their two meals as the canteen provides food at subsidised rates. Today, they say, the quality and quantity have come down drastically. They have noticed this over the last one year.

Paramesh, a food delivery person who has his afternoon meals at the canteen daily after his hectic job, says that food was good earlier, but now, the quality is not great. "But what to do? We earn very little, and we can't afford to eat in Darshini hotels as it costs ₹55 for just rice and sambar there. In Indira canteen, it is just ₹10 a plate," he said, while adding that the government has to give more importance to the canteen food quality and hygiene.

The canteen workers say quality has dipped because the contractors have started giving tasteless food as the popularity of the canteens has reduced, leading to losses. But the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) insists the canteen is running successfully.

A mobile canteen at Vidhana Soudha and (right) a non-functional canteen at Jayanagar, in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO AND K. MURALI KUMAR

How it began

The announcement of the setting up Indira Canteens aimed at the urban poor was made in March 2017, following the Amma canteen model in neighbouring Tamil Nadu. The then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his Budget set aside ₹ 100 crore for these canteens, named after the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

On August 16, 2017, 101 Indira Canteens were inaugurated by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who had the first breakfast at one of them in Jayanagar. Later, the initiative was expanded to various parts of the State, especially to cater to the urban poor.

The Opposition alleges that things started to change when the BJP came to power. The canteens in the city are operating, but have not been given any boost, and slowly turning it into an unsuccessful model.

Today, there are 174 fixed Indira Canteens and 24 mobile canteens serving lakhs of citizens, especially those belonging to lower socio-economic groups, who depend on the canteens for breakfast, lunch and dinner, which are made available at a subsidised cost. After 101 canteens were initially opened in 2017, their popularity led to the expansion of the scheme to all the 198 wards. Currently, Indira Canteens are providing breakfast at ₹5 and lunch and dinner at ₹10.

Poor turnout

Karnataka government has been providing a 30% subsidy to the BBMP for operating Indira Canteens in different parts of the city.

The popularity of the canteen has come down, and hence, the BBMP is looking to shift the canteens which are in less populated areas to densely populated areas. An officer from BBMP involved with the project said on the condition of anonymity, "It is true that the canteen is not as popular now, that too after the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking into various ways to make the canteen popular among people and target more people in the coming days."

"One such measure we are going to bring is to relocate canteens located in lesser populated areas to densely populated areas such as bus stands, railway stations, market areas. For this, the State cabinet has also given the nod and the Urban Development Department (UDD) is conducting a survey," the official added.

This measure is to make canteens economically viable and provide services to more people. Now, daily the Indira Canteen is providing around 60,000 to 70,000 people subsidised food, according to the civic body. Officials said that in the starting first two years, food was distributed to an average 300 to 400 people in one canteen per day, providing three-time meals, but now it has reduced to 100 to 50 people.

Lack of budgetary allocation

Most canteens in the city are suffering due to what the opposition alleges the lack of interest by the present BJP government to fund the canteen.

In 2017-18 and 2018-2019, the then government allocated ₹100 crores and ₹145 crores respectively, but after the BJP government took over, in the past two years, no funds were allocated for the scheme. Hence, the civic body had to allot funds to the canteens from its own budget.

The BBMP had earmarked ₹60 crore in the 2022-23 Budget for running the Indira Canteens. While no decision has been taken to cease the canteen scheme as of now, the contractors said that they had not been paid for months.

In 2020, Mr. Siddaramaiah had written a letter to the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to clear the contractors' bills.

He had alleged that the BJP was trying to scuttle the welfare scheme by not releasing funds on time, making it difficult for the local bodies to clear bills of contractors.

Over to ISKCON

In May this year, the city's civic body had decided to propose to the State government to hand over Indira Canteens in the city to ISKCON without calling for tenders, availing 4G exemption under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act, 1999.

Presently three vendors – Chef Talk, Rewards and Adamya Chetana – are providing food at the canteens for ₹55.30 per three meals a day, which is borne by the civic body. Reasons for BBMP exploring handing over the canteens to ISKCON included quality issues and a dip in patronage. While the canteens were the mainstay for many during the lockdown period, over the past few months, the patronage has come down.

A former councillor from the Congress said, "Handing over the contract of supplying food to the canteens without tenders amounts to corruption. Now, the present government is not at all interested in Indira Canteen and they are making politics out of it and neglecting the canteen by not giving funds."

But the proposal has not yet been finalised by the government, confirmed T. Jayaram Rajpura, BBMP Special Commissioner (Finance). Meanwhile, the BBMP has appointed marshals to each canteen to verify bills and as per that, these bill payments are done by BBMP.

Incidentally, it is ISKCON that is providing food to the 18,000-odd pourakarmikas in the BBMP areas. They complain about the food that is being supplied, said Nirmala M., president of BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha. She said that the lack of onion, garlic and other masalas that is commonly used is missing in ISKCON's food, making it "tasteless."

During COVID-19

The State government used the Indira canteens successfully during the pandemic in 2020. The State government provided free food at Indira Canteens to those who are dependent on daily wages for their livelihood.

Free breakfast was provided from 7.30 a.m. to 10 a.m.; lunch from 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m., and dinner from 7.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on all days, with the same canteen menu.

The BBMP officials said that more than 3 lakh free meals a day were provided when food packets were given away at Indira Canteens during the lockdown.

Politics around canteen

BBMP sources said that the canteens were backed politically earlier. However, the BJP government now wants to do nothing with the Indira Canteens, neither be associated with it, close it down or change the name.

"The State Government has also not been providing any funds to keep the canteens going. The entire spend is being borne by the BBMP over the past few years and it only shows the politics by the BJP led government to close the scheme launched by the Congress, " sources alleged.

App no longer available

A few months after the launch of Indira Canteen, BBMP developed a mobile app for the canteen, where the app provides the location of the five nearest canteens along with the menu of the day. Now, the mobile application is not available on the app store and the reason is unknown as the BBMP officials have not responded to queries.

Despite lack of government patronage, a few canteens doing well

JAYANTH R.
JAHNAVI T. R.
BENGALURU

Indira Canteens were started by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2017 with the aim of providing affordable, good quality food to citizens across all walks of life. Now, five years later, holding a stark contrast to the state of most such canteens, the Indira Canteen in Dharmarayaswamy temple ward carries forward that objective by dishing out at least 2,500 - 3,000 meals a day to hungry customers. This comes amid lack of adequate funds by the government and alleged poor management

In 2017, selling over 3,000 meals a day, this place held the record for giving out the highest number of meals in a day amongst all the Indira Canteens. Today, it sells 1,350 plates of breakfast, 1,200 plates of lunch and 500 - 600 plates of dinner, according to the cashier at the canteen. He notes that whenever there is idly for breakfast, more people arrive at the canteen. For lunch, most of them prefer white rice and sambar/rasam over other rice forms.

Popular dishes

"The most popular combo here is upma and kesari bath. As it tastes very similar to the same dishes prepared in hotels, our customers enjoy it a lot. Here, we do not usually get much feedback about the taste as most of who come here are already hungry and it is their routine to have a meal here. But rarely, some come up and compliment us for the food", the cashier told *The Hindu*.

Success mantra

Some of the regulars at the canteen have their personal favourite dishes. "They make very good pulav here. I have been to several Indira canteens across the city over the years. I have been coming to this branch for 22 days as my mother has been admitted to Victoria Hospital. The food has been consistently tasty", said Harsha, a BMTC bus driver.

The first Indira Canteen, in Jayanagar, was inaugurated on August 16, 2017. • K. MURALI KUMAR

The location of the canteen plays a key role in its success. Situated right inside the K.R. Market bus stop, it is easily accessible to the sellers and vendors at the market, the staff at Victoria and Vani Vilas hospitals, the attendants there, students from nearby educational institutions, bus drivers and conductors and the floating crowd, which is made up of shoppers and tourists. For them, it is the most convenient, affordable option.

"I work at a dry fruit shop inside the market. I have been coming to this canteen for five years and I have no complaints about the food. I eat my breakfast and lunch here at a mere cost of ₹15 everyday", said Saleem, who was having lunch at the canteen.

For women, the presence of the BBMP marshall in their uniform gives a sense of security to eat here.

"I have come here a few times before and today, I am here shopping with my sister. KR Market is a very crowded place, but here we can get at least a small private space where we can eat in peace," said Preethi, a college student.

The first one

Indira Canteen at Kanakanapalya of Jayanagar in South Bengaluru is the first canteen launched by the government. It was inaugurated on August 16 by the then Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi and is seeing a lot of consumers every day.

The Hindu visited the canteen and saw many people having food at the canteen since the food quality is good.

"This canteen is seeing a good number of footfalls every day; around 150 to 200 people come here to have food," a canteen cashier told *The Hindu*.

But the canteen lacks drinking water facility and has complaints related to hygiene, say customers.

"Food quality is very good and it is tasty, but there is an issue of drinking water facilities and also hygiene should improve," said a cab driver, who has his daily lunch at this canteen.

As he travels the country for the ongoing Taste of Australia campaign, chef Michael Weldon will recreate favourites from Down Under at a pop-up in Bengaluru this weekend

Spices in his suitcase

:: NIDHI ADLAKHA

Michael Weldon has come to India with a suitcase full of native Australian spices. This, he says, is to give diners here a taste of cuisine from Down Under.

"My favourite is the mountain pepper that has a warm and fruity undertone, with the same effect as schezwan pepper. I've also brought wattle seed that I'm using in a pumpkin dish, and the lemon myrtle that is going into a fish preparation," says the chef and two-time *MasterChef Australia* contestant, who is touring India as a part of the Australian government's Taste of Australia campaign. Part of which, is a series of interactive food and beverage demonstrations, masterclasses and curated dinners, to showcase Australia's cooking with an Indian twist.

I caught up with Michael over a call in the middle of dinner prep for a pop-up at The Oberoi in Mumbai. "I'm really happy with the food, and it's coming out well. The chefs are great, and they are teaching me how to make Australian cuisine more friendly for the Indian palette," says the chef who has just completed pop-up dinners at New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai over the past week, and will wrap up the tour in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Lemon myrtle meets turmeric

The menu, Michael says, is evolving with each city. "I'm serving roast chicken with grilled baby lettuce, and a native Australian masala jus. This masala differs in each city: New Delhi had more garam masala, and in Kolkata I used more fennel and mustard – spices found in the *panch phoran*. For the cauliflower steak, I was influenced by Kolkata and I added a turmeric pickled cauli element," says the chef who co-hosts popular travel food show, *Farm to Fork Australia*.

Learning about regional cuisine helps, and Michael is letting that lead some of the dishes. The Mumbai and Bengaluru menus, for instance, feature more seafood.

Busting food fads Michael Weldon at the spice market • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"For Bengaluru in particular, I'm creating a surprise dish: a wattleseed crusted roasted eggplant with a creamy sauce and spicy tomato chutney." There is also a mountain pepper squid with saltbush; and banana leaf naked fish with lemon myrtle butter, burnt leeks and salsa verde.

A taste of India

A first-timer to India, Michael says he has "enjoyed getting to see the food and culture", and believes the country shares similarities with Australia.

"It's not just cricket and the food, but the people are warm and caring. People have sent me such lovely messages after *MasterChef*, and it is great to meet them in person," he says.

For him, India's flavour-packed street food "is among the best in the world". "In Old Delhi, the Aslam chicken, samosa and chai at Karim's, were amazing. As were the *puchkas* and kathi rolls in Kolkata. I was told I will get in trouble if I call it a *pani puri* there," he laughs.

Fresh off the farm

For someone who spends a lot of time in Aussie farms and with their growers, Michael says his food philosophy is pretty simple: creating produce-driven food that tells a story. "It's not about just making a dish pretty. I like to let the ingredients do the talking."

And his menu for Bengaluru highlights several such stories: the yellow tail nammas with cucumber, coriander and chilli, an entrée, is inspired by North Australia's cuisine where locals have the nammas as a snack; and the spiced lamb pie with pea puree draws from the Adelaide classic, pie floater.

His mission, says Michael, is to "show Indian restaurants how good Australian food can be". "I am looking forward to inspiring Indians to cook in an Australian or Michael Weldon way," says the chef, adding how he borrows from cuisines he is exposed to on his travels. "Once I go back, I will probably have *panch phoran* in my dishes!"

September 16 and 17 at The Oberoi, Bengaluru. ₹4,500+ tax per person; ₹6,500+ tax including wine. For reservations, call 8893456104.

By my many other names

Artist Anuradha Nalapat talks about words and the spaces behind them through her ongoing show NamePlaceAnimalThing

:: RUTH DHANARAJ

Talking to artist Anuradha Nalapat is like stumbling down memory lane, all the while wondering how much of the scenery you had missed the first time round. Childhood distractions take on a different dimension in her artistic approach.

She talks about the classroom notebook staple – NamePlaceAnimalThing – a game that pitted general knowledge against the fall of a dice (or number counter). "The act of choosing your favourite place or animal got me thinking about the multiplicity of names. Different people use variations of your name; no one single identity that defines you."

Anuradha says the current exhibition, titled after that game, is a reflection of the multifaceted creativity within every person. "I never thought I could make a documentary or write an essay in my mother tongue. But life shows you that you can do that too," she says.

Peekaboo Artist Anuradha Nalapat and works from her current series • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Just beyond that name is a dramatic space that balances you. You become the spaces you visit. Sometimes they can be traumatic, but you learn from them. Everything about art and creativity is about visiting those different spaces."

Talking about her current work, Anuradha says it stemmed from a long hard look at childhood distractions. "Nursery rhymes and classics such as *Alice In Wonderland* and *The Wizard of Oz* are really not for children – they are for adults to understand children," she says, adding, "A child peeping into dark closets is imagery that encourages you to peep into your subconscious."

Anuradha's paintings could offer a peek into anyone's mind. Fantastic worlds inhabited by mystic creatures and miniscule people, rise from the mists of her imagination to jostle with ancient scripts.

She has used acrylics and pastels on acid-free paper as well as oil on canvas and charcoal for the 24 pieces on display.

NamePlaceAnimalThing is at MKF Gallery till September 24.

Hello dolly!

The Tamaala Dasara Doll Festival is on at Studio Tamaala, JP Nagar, and will continue till September 30 from 10am to 9pm. On display are handmade dolls by rural artisans from Kolkata, Varanasi, Ettikopakka, Kondapalli, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Panruti, Channapatna and Mysuru in clay, white wood and lac turned wood, to name a few. *The dolls will also be delivered across the country if ordered via tamaala.com*

Life on stage

Being Productions will stage its next play *Aaina... Zindagi Ka* at Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar, on September 20 at 7.30pm. The play is all about relationships; it shows how things are taken for granted and what starts off as a period of bliss spirals downward, through the eyes of the protagonists – a newly married couple. *Tickets are available on bookmyshow.com*

String along

Bengaluru International Arts Festival will be held from September 16 to 18 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall. The theme for this year's fest is a commemoration of the birth centenary of two legends – Bhimsen Joshi and Rani Vijaya Devi of the Wadiyar Family. Performances by Srivani Centre of Performing Arts are some of the events that are part of the fest. *Log into biaf.co.in for details*

Fall in love with Frida

A special exhibition of photographs to commemorate the 212th anniversary of Mexican Independence, is on display at Bengaluru's Gallery G. Titled, Diego and Frida: Life Chronicles, around 60 photo reprints showcasing the lives of one of Mexico's most famous couples, is on display for the first time in India. The photographs will be on display till October 10.

Gossip girls A still from *Dekh Behen* • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

My big fat bicker fest

Dilshad Edibam Khurana and Tahira Nath Krishnan's play, set against the backdrop of a rich Punjabi wedding, discusses these topics through five bridesmaids

:: PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

North Indian weddings are often big, flamboyant and dramatic. Because of the sheer number of people involved, one can find many amusing conversations that sometimes reflect on our society. Dilshad Edibam Khurana and Tahira Nath Krishnan's play *Dekh Behen* zooms into one such light-hearted chit-chat between five bridesmaids and the bride herself during a big, fat Punjabi wedding.

Just a few hours before they go on stage for their rehearsed dance number, the five bridesmaids meet in a room. They eat, drink, and discuss their identical outfits. The costume apart, the bridesmaids have one more thing in common: they all dislike the bride.

The drama might seem to be restricted to a room, but this play – produced by Akvarious Productions and directed by Prerna Chawla and Shikha Talsania – has travelled across India and been staged over 80 times in several cities.

The all-female crew of *Dekh Behen* includes Astha Arora, Dilshad, Mithila Palkar and Tahira among others. Akvarious Productions is known for its women-centric plays. One of its first hits, *All About Women* (2008) was an all-women play that ran over 60 shows. In 2011, its all-female short play, *Santa's Little Call Girls*, ran for eight years.

FRIDAYREVIEW

"Writing is tough work. But it was so much fun writing with Tahira because we know each other's strengths and weaknesses, which made the process quite smooth," says Dilshad. "It helped that the play is about a group of women, a topic not too far from our hearts, so dialogues came naturally to us. Akarsh was our guiding light, giving us feedback."

Tahira, meanwhile, quipped, "It was like an army training camp. The coach, our producer, pushed us to take laps around the same field so many times that we vomited this play out in the end. Good times."

"I'm so used to being thrown into the deep end by Akarsh Khurana (the head of Akvarious), that I always feel challenged in the best way by what I would love to believe is his 'trust'. As usual, he's considerate enough to also throw in some of my favourite lifebuoys (the obvious 'lifegirls' joke is very tempting, but I'll abstain) for good measure. These women are amazing and superbly cast."

For Shikha, the play was her first as a director. She said she could not have asked for a better one, to begin with. "It was an amazing experience to work with such a talented bunch of women," she said.

Dekh Behen will be staged on September 17 and 18 at Ranga Shankara at 3.30pm and 7.30pm. The play will last 75 minutes and is not suitable for people under 18. Tickets on bookmyshow.com.

A time to dance

Mount Carmel College gears up to host its annual Jugalbandi series from this week

:: LEESHA K NAIR

Celebrating the Heritage of Indian Dance Culture, the Department of Communication Studies at Mount Carmel College (MCC) launch their annual Jugalbandi series from September 16 to 18 and 23 to 25.

The series has become a marquee event in Bengaluru as it hosts various dancers from across the nation, with sessions spread over two weekends. The series started off as an extension of MCC's Perspectives in Indian Art course and features Indian dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, Chhauu, Sattriya, and Kathak to name a few.

This year, the series features 12 celebrated Indian dancers – Ivana Sarkar, Sinam Basu, Parshwanath Upadhye, Sweekruth BP, Kirti Ramgopal, Meghna Das, Prateeksha Kashi, Ramyani Roy, Rakesh Sai Babu, Bandana Kakati, Pooja Pant and Shruthi KP.

The dancers will not only present choreographies from their respective dance forms, but also pieces they collaborated on with each other. The audience can also interact with the artistes post the performances.

Unity in diversity

"It is important to understand and see the beauty of our diverse culture. I think the current generation is oblivious to Indian classical dance forms. Still, people are left spellbound after any classical performance," says professor Sahana Das from the Department of Communication Studies.

"I watched the series last year; this year I'm getting a season pass for all six days," says Vidhya Raghunath, an HR manager with a passion for the arts.

MCC's Jugalbandi series will take place at the MCC Auditorium from 3pm to 5pm. Passes will be available at the venue and are priced at ₹50 for students and ₹200 for others. A season pass is priced ₹1,000.

The schedule of the event can be accessed on the Instagram page of MCC Communication Club.

Dance with me Previous editions of MCC's Jugalbandi series • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Council passes anti-conversion Bill amidst strong protests

It will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly later during this session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Setting the stage for clearance of the Karnataka Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, the Legislative Council on Thursday passed the controversial legislation by voice vote amidst vociferous protest and walkout from Congress members.

High drama prevailed before the passage of the Bill, popularly called the anti-conversion Bill, as the ruling BJP and Opposition members sparred while some key questions asked by the Congress went unanswered. Despite repeated questions on the number of cases registered since the Ordinance was promulgated in May, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra did not answer.

While Congress members were on their feet with doubts yet to be clarified by the treasury benches, Chairman Raghunath Rao Malkapure put the Bill to vote, enraging the Congress members. As the Bill was being cleared with the BJP having majority in the Upper House, several Congress members, including Leader of the Opposition B.K. Hariprasad, raised slogans and tore copies of the Bill before walking out of the House.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking in the Legislative Council on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In Assembly

The Bill, which was passed in Legislative Assembly during the winter session in Belagavi in December, 2021, had not been cleared in the Upper House as the Opposition had protested its introduction at the last moment. The BJP, which did not have majority in the Council then, deferred its introduction twice early this year only to promulgate an Ordinance in May.

While the Council passed the Bill on Thursday, it will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly later during this session.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

'Hidden agenda'

During the over four hours of debate, sparks flew as the members from the Opposition and treasury benches engaged in arguments several times. The Law Minister and the Leader of Opposition were also involved in a heated debate as the Opposition charged the government with having a "hidden agenda" to bring in the legislation. Members also raised objection to the punishment prescribed and the burden of proof on the witness.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy, who was engaged in verbal exchanges with the Opposition benches, said that the Bill was not "anti-conversion bill", but "a Bill to protect religions", which was within the ambit of the Constitution.

While the Congress member P.R. Ramesh pointed out that the Bill was against the 1977 Supreme Court order, the Law Minister justified, saying there had been no direction nor restriction from the court.

Defending the Bill, Mr. Jnanendra said that there was no hidden agenda nor vote bank politics involved, and argued that the Bill was originally proposed by the Congress during Siddaramaiah's regime. He also said that the Bill only spoke about forced conversion and not against any religion.

Earlier, initiating the discussion Mr. Hariprasad said that the Bill was against the principles of the Constitution. "This will come under the ambit of Constitutional amendment and any debate pertaining to an amendment to the Constitution cannot not take place in this House. This should be debated in the Lok Sabha," he added.

Population reduced

Pointing out that the minority population in the State had actually reduced compared to previous years, Mr. Hariprasad said: "If there were conversions, the population should have gone up. Show us how many cases have you booked against forced conversions."

Intervening, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the government had taken steps to prevent forced conversion. "Religious practice is allowed under the Constitution. The Bill has been framed to prevent forced conversion. The country has a history of spiritual revolutions. Earlier Christian churches ruled. Now, they have lost control. We cannot allow terrorism in the name of religion," he said.

PSI recruitment scam: Cong., BJP agree for discussion

Assembly witnesses heated debate over the issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

J.C. Madhuswamy

- Siddaramaiah seeks debate on the alleged scam by moving an adjournment motion
- Madhuswamy says the issue is not a recent development, and therefore, not a fit case for discussion under an adjournment motion

The Karnataka government informed the Legislative Assembly Thursday that it was ready for a discussion on the alleged scam in the recruitment of police sub-inspectors (PSIs), which would encompass recruitment in previous governments as well.

The House witnessed a heated debate between ruling BJP and Opposition Congress members when Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah sought a debate on the alleged scam by moving an adjournment motion, which was opposed by the government.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said he would raise issues related to the PSI scam without going into the merit of the case. "It is the responsibility of the Opposition to raise the issue, which has been receiving wide publicity in the media. Moreover, there were several allegations of involvement of legislators and Ministers in the scam. ADGP Amrit Paul is among those who have been arrested," he pointed out.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said the issue was not a recent development, and therefore, not a fit case for discussion under an adjournment motion (Rule 60 of the House). When Congress members M.B. Patil, R.V. Deshpande, Ramalinga Reddy, and Priyank Kharge insisted, Mr. Madhuswamy said a notice given by the Congress should have mentioned the names of legislators and Ministers involved in the alleged scam. "We are ready to discuss PSI recruitment, and throw light on police recruitment in the past too... We are proud that our Home Minister ordered a probe into the recruitment process. We arrested an ADGP. You (Congress) only do political speeches," the Law Minister said.

He aid many members would participate and a wider debate would take place if the issue was taken up for discussion under a different rule of the House.

Judicial probe sought

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has been investigating the alleged scam. Mr. Siddaramaiah demanded that a judicial commission look into all recruitment of police personnel since 2006.

After Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri rejected a discussion under the adjournment motion, both Congress and BJP members agreed to discuss recruitment of police personnel in the ongoing session. The discussion is likely to take place next week after the government's reply to the debate on rain havoc.

State releases excess Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka has released 416.65 tmcft of water as against the required 101.08 tmcft (as per the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal) to Tamil Nadu in the 2022 water year, Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation Govind M. Karjol informed the Legislative Council on Thursday.

In a written reply to an unstarred question by Congress member Dinesh Guli Gowda, the Minister said a total quantum of 416.65 tmcft had been registered at Biligundlu on the inter-State border this water year.

D.J. Halli riots: Claims panel to estimate loss

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government has appointed retired judge H.S. Kempanna as the claim commissioner to estimate the loss of public and government properties in the K.G. Halli and D.J. Halli riots in 2020, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra informed the Legislative Council on Thursday.

"A decision on confiscating the properties of those involved in the riots will be taken based on the commission's report. We will not hesitate to confiscate the properties of those involved," the Minister said in a reply to BJP member N. Ravi Kumar. There were no incidents of murders in Karnataka by anti-social elements from other States, the Minister said. He said there was strict vigil to prevent entry of members from inter-State organisations into Karnataka.

Prime accused in PSI scam surrenders

CID had obtained orders to attach his property

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Hours after CID officials obtained property attachment orders of a prime accused in the PSI recruitment scam who had been absconding since earlier this year, he surrendered before the Additional City Metropolitan Magistrate in the city on Thursday.

The accused, Bore Gowda, a civil contractor by profession, allegedly played an important role as a middleman between the candidates and officials. He was on the run since the scam broke out. He is the 37th accused in the scam.

The CID officials, led by ADGP Umesh Kumar, probing the scam, resorted to legal options to smoke him out from his hideout and obtained property attachment orders from the court and went to seal his house situated at Laggere. The message about the CID action was conveyed to Bore Gowda, through his family members and soon he surrendered before the magistrate.

The CID officials had initiated a similar operation of attaching the property of an accused involved in a Kalaburagi case. However, before initiating the procedure, the accused had surrendered.

The CID team that was heading to seal Bore Gowda's other properties returned to the court and took him into custody for questioning. Bore Gowda's arrest is expected to throw more light on the details of the scam and the exact role of the accused.

Will investigate bitcoin scam if anyone shows evidence: Araga

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Araga Jnanendra

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Thursday said the government would investigate the bitcoin scam if those who had been cheated provided evidence.

The scam revolves around a money-laundering case against Srikrishna (Sriki), 26, who along with his associates has been booked for allegedly stealing ₹11.5 crore from a Karnataka government's e-procurement portal and for hacking into gaming sites and international cryptocurrency exchanges.

Although JD(S) member T.A. Saravana asked the Home Minister about the status of the investigation, the Minister said the State government was transparent in its investigation. Pointing out that the government had responded several times to the discussion on the issue held in the House, the Minister said, "If you provide any proof, we will investigate."

He said an investigation into the cryptocurrency scam done in the U.S. had not shown the involvement of anyone from Karnataka or any other Indian State. "We have seen media reports that several have lost crores of rupees. But who are those who have lost the money? They should have complained. Our police initially found a crypto coin in the wallet but later it was not there. Sriki had shown something else. Even now if you give us evidence, we will investigate," he said.

Five people, including Sriki, have been released on bail in connection with the bitcoin scam. Apart from this, 79 cases have been registered in various cybercrime police stations. The Minister said that only in some cases the accused had been arrested and their trial was at various stages.

'What are police doing?'

Intervening, Leader of the Opposition B.K. Hariprasad said, "You want us to give evidence? What is your police force doing? Many bigwigs are involved and it is the government's responsibility to find evidence. There is a cybercrime cell for this," he said.

ED summons Shivakumar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar *(in picture)* has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money-laundering case.

"In the midst of the #BharatJodoYatra and the Assembly session, they have again issued me an ED summons to appear. I am ready to cooperate but the timing of this summons and the harassment I am put through is coming in the way of discharging my constitutional and political duties," Mr. Shivakumar tweeted.

Mr. Shivakumar has been touring different districts to make arrangements for Bharat Jodo Yatra of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi. The yatra will enter the State on September 30.

Arrest

The ED had arrested Mr. Shivakumar in September 2019 in a money-laundering case and the Delhi High Court granted him bail in October that year.

Process on for recruitment of 15,000 schoolteachers: govt.

About 47,000 teacher vacancies exist in the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Members of both the Opposition and ruling parties in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday demanded that the State government take immediate steps to recruit teachers in primary and high schools and construct sufficient classrooms for ensuring quality education in government schools.

In reply to questions, Minister for School Education and Literacy B.C. Nagesh said a process for recruitment of 15,000 teachers was on and tests were conducted on May 21 and 22. About 47,000 teacher vacancies exist in the State. Guest teachers had been appointed for teaching different subjects for primary and secondary schools.

In reply to Narasimha Nayak (Rahugouda) of the BJP, Mr. Nagesh said the student-teacher ratio was 25:1 in Kalyana Karnataka region and 16:1 in other parts of the State. The department had decided to recruit 5,000 teachers in Kalyana Karnataka region. But it was difficult to get 5,000 qualified candidates for the posts. At least 3,000 teachers would be posted to the region, he said. One more test would be conducted in October or November for recruitment of teachers.

'Discrimination'

Amaregouda Bayyapur (Congress), representing Kushtagi, said there were no permanent teachers in 10 schools in his constituency. Eshwar Khandre (Congress) alleged discrimination in the education system and posting of teachers to the Kalyana Karnataka region.

Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, who served as the Education Minister, said teachers who get posted in Kalyana Karnataka region seek transfers to their native places and this causes a large number of vacancies in the region.

On the construction of classrooms, the Minister said schools needed 24,000 classrooms and about 8,000 classrooms would be built this year.

GP vacancies

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday informed the Legislative Council that all vacant posts in gram panchayats will be filled in the next three-four months through direct recruitment or promotions.

Replying to Congress member Manjunath Bhandari, the Chief Minister said that 326 PDOs, 635 grade-I secretaries, and 340 grade-II secretaries would be recruited within three or four months to facilitate better administration to the people.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
MASTER CONTROL FACILITY
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
PB # 66, Hassan-573201, India Telephone: 08172-273343
Fax: 08172-273953

NIT No: MCF/CMG/H/eTN-12/2022-23/2-1014 Date: 15.09.2022

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering mode for the following work:

Title of work	Revamping of Main Entrance gate at MCF Hassan (Civil & Electrical Works).
Estimated Cost put to tender	Rs.70,93,229/-
Period of Completion	Three (03) Months
EMD	Rs.1,41,865/-
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From: 16.09.2022, 10:00 Hrs To: 25.09.2022, 10:00 Hrs.
Period for bid clarifications	From: 16.09.2022, 10:01 Hrs. To: 25.09.2022, 14:00 Hrs.
Last date & time of reply to bid clarifications	26.09.2022, 17:30 Hrs.
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	27.09.2022, 17:00 Hrs.
Due date and time for opening of tenders (Techno-Commercial Bid)	on 30.09.2022 from 11:30 Hrs onwards (Technical Bid)

Interested bidders may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.isro.gov.in & www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website: www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO All corrigendum, addendum, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the tender wizard portal only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders may regularly visit the above mentioned websites for any updates.

Sd/- Div. Head-CCMD

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, 4th & 5th Floors, 'East Wing', Khanija Bhavan,
Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Phone : 080-22265383 Website: www.kiadb.in
e-mail: cdoce1@kiadb.in or jdtp@kiadb.in

No: IADB/ENGG/EIA/EC/ETND-EC-14/10773/2022-23 Date:14-09-2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC)
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tenders under two cover systems for Providing Consultancy Services for preparing EIA, SIS studies etc., to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)/Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and Half yearly compliance report to be submitted as per the statue for all the conditions of EC & CFE for 3 years for the Sarathi-Kurubarahalli Industrial Area, Phase-II, Sarathi & Karlahalli Villages, Harihara Taluk, Davanagere District in an extent of 336 Acres - 5 Guntas.

Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Scheduled of dates are as follows:

- Last date to receive pre bid queries: 21-09-2022 up to 5.00 pm
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on: 23-09-2022 at 11.30 am
- Last date for submission of Technical & Financial bid is : 07-10-2022 up to 4.00 pm
- Time and date of opening of Technical bid is on: 11-10-2022 after 11.30 am

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2234/MAA/2022-23

(KRISHAN BHAGYA JALA NIGAM ltd)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.NLBC Division,
Rodalabanda-584127 Tq.Lingasugur Dist.Raichur
email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2022-23/1069 Date :-9.9.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-tendering only)
Ref:- Tender Notification No. 3018 dt 30.10.2021

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NLBC Division, Rodalabanda invites percentage tenders in two cover system from eligible Class.I Civil KPWD & KBJNL Category-III & above registered Contractors (Total 4 Nos.of Pickup works) as detailed in the short term Tender Notification published in e-procurement portal viz http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The Intending tenderers may download the tender document through e-procurement portal viz., http//eproc. karnataka.gov.in.from 12.09.2022 to 27.09.2022 @ 4.00 PM. The technical bid will be opened on 29.09.2022 @ 11.00 AM and Further details can be obtained from this office in any working days during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KBJNL NLBC Division, Rodalbanda

DIP/Raichur/303/MAC/2022-23

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 562 123.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–27722735 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 080–27723627
E-mail: itstaffnelamangala@gmail.com Website: www.nelamangalacity.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : [illegible]/10/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14–09–2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್)

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Anti-rabies vaccination drive from September 20

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government will launch an anti-rabies vaccination drive in the State from September 20 to inoculate dogs in 170 local bodies that have been identified as hotspots of dog bite cases, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister J. Chinchurani has said.

The local self-government institutions that have reported 10 or more dog bite cases in a month have been classified as hotspots. Thiruvananthapuram has the highest number of hotspots with 28. Palakkad has 26 hotspots, while Kollam and Alappuzha have 19 hotspots each.

Payment, deposits of many pharma firms held up in Karnataka

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

The issue of delay in payment for medical supplies and withholding of security deposits, paid by companies, to participate in a tender process, has riled medical suppliers in the State.

It is estimated that around ₹300 crore bills are due for payment after the vendors supplied drugs through Karnataka State Medical Supplies Company Ltd., which procures drugs for State government medical facilities and also under National Health Mission (NHM).

Sources said that average annual procurement under NHM was about ₹1,200 crore.

"Since the security deposit is not released even to those who do not qualify in the tender process, some small vendors have stopped participating in the tender process, and those who have still participated have seen their security deposit stuck. Currently, with security deposit being high, many are shying away," a vendor told *The Hindu*.

One of the reminder letters to the State government on pending dues from the KSMSCL by a company, reminded the government that it is suffering hardship due to the non-payment since it is a MSME.

A couple of vendors said that the issues with the government procurement of medical supplies, including non-payment of bills and security deposit, have been flagged through letters to Health Minister K. Sudhakar and also to the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee Krishna Byre Gowda.

When enquired about the vendors' issues, a senior Health Department official said that about ₹300 crore was pending as dues for the procurement done for NHM, and that the delay was due to procedures involved in clearing the bill. The official also acknowledged that a small number of them had budgetary issues too.

Regarding the return of security deposits to the vendor, an official said that efforts are being made to clear all of them in the next few weeks.

"The security deposits are made on the e-portal for the last two years. There are issues in about 15 security deposits that were done during the manual tendering process done between 2013 and 2016. These are pending due to disputes and a report has been sought."

HC sentences T.N. YouTuber to 6-month jail for contempt

He hasn't expressed regret for remarks against higher judiciary, says the Bench

STAFF REPORTER
MADURAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday held well-known blogger 'Savukku' Shankar guilty of criminal contempt for his remarks on the higher judiciary and sentenced him to six months of simple imprisonment. He was directed to be lodged in Madurai Central Prison.

The court initiated *suo motu* contempt proceedings against him following his remarks, "The entire higher judiciary is riddled with corruption," made to a YouTube channel on July 22. It framed charges and called upon him to explain, within a week, why he should not be held guilty of scandalising the judiciary by making statements in public domain.

Mr. Shankar requested the court to suspend the sentence, but a Division Bench of Justices G.R. Swaminathan and B. Pugalendhi refused.

The judges observed that the conduct of the contemnor deserves to be noted. Nowhere did he express his regret or remorse. He did not offer any apology at all. On the other hand, he asserted that he was justified in making the charged statements. The Bench was of the view that a reading of the charged statements would lead anyone to the conclusion that they are likely to lower the prestige and dignity of courts and judges.

Taking note of the fact that criminal contempt had been initiated against him at the High Court principal seat six years ago, the judges said that yet, he made the offending statements.

"The contemnor has reiterated his resolve to continue his attack on the judiciary. He has gone to the extent of stating that he can be sentenced only to a maximum of six months and that after coming out, he will focus all his attention on judges and judiciary. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer stated that 'Justice fails when Judges quail'. We do not propose to quail. There are occasions when Judges have to be firm and stern. Shrugging off such provocations by stating that we possess broad shoulders would be seen as a sign of weakness. The contemnor has shown himself to be an unrepentant character," the judges held.

At the hearing, Mr. Shankar contended that the proceedings were bereft of jurisdiction. Relying on the Contempt of Court Rules, he said that since the matter had not been forwarded to the Advocate-General in the first instance, the present proceedings were not maintainable. He submitted that he was concerned with the under-representation of the suppressed classes and the over-representation of Brahmins in the higher judiciary. He claimed his comments were taken out of context and that he had respect for the judiciary. His intention, he said, was only to demand improvement in the system. In his view, he is entitled to highlight public causes and should not be prevented from doing so.

FROM PAGE ONE

Payment to drug firms for supply of Remdesivir stuck

A few persons managed to procure the drug from the market by paying a premium

"Such was the demand that not even a single sample of those batches is available for testing (if testing were to be carried out today)," said a supplier of medicine to the government.

The supplier argued that the lapse was only 'procedural', and not something that put patients at risk. "This condition exists to ensure that the quality of drugs supplied to the government is not inferior in standard as compared to what is released in the open market," he claimed. "The high-end drug was tested in labs by the manufacturers as per strict protocols and certified safe. Given the emergency during the height of the pandemic, the third-party testing was foregone to save time and speed up supplies to the government," he said.

The pharma companies that supplied Remdesivir included Biocon Biologics, Mylan, Sun Pharma and Cipla. A leading Karnataka-based company claimed that payment has been withheld for want of a report from an empanelled lab, which is not feasible now as physical stocks are not available for testing. In a letter to the Health and Family Welfare Department, the company pointed out that it had supported the Karnataka Government with COVID-19 drug supply and played an active role in saving every life possible.

Another pharma company expressed unhappiness over the delay in payment for the stock of Remdesivir injection supplied during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic despite having completed the relevant paperwork long back.

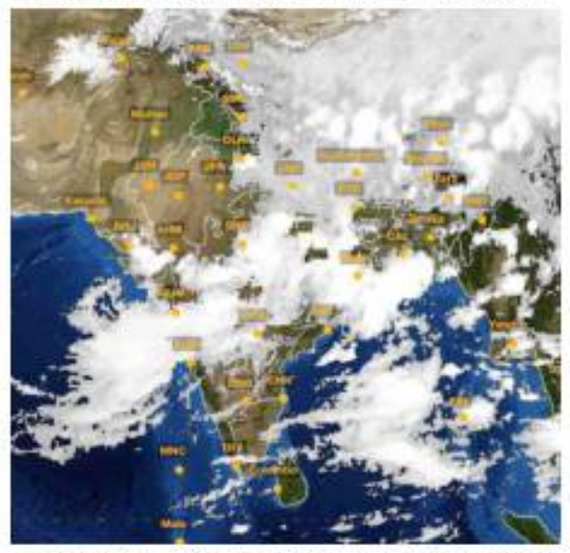
A senior official of the Health Department of Karnataka told *The Hindu*, "The situation then was such that emergency supplies were necessary, as thousands were infected with COVID-19 and battling for life. The supplies were made directly to government health facilities, and 10% sample testing in a Delhi-based empaneled lab could not take place as demand for the injection was unusually high and immediate."

Sources said that KSMSCL MD Rajendra Cholan is expected to move the KSMSCL board shortly for a solution to the more-than-year-old problem. The board is set to take feedback from district health officers (DHOs) and others on the issue, the sources said.

When asked how the government would reconcile the supplies before making the payment, an official said, "We have sought reports of consumption from the DHOs. There is no adverse report. The matter will be discussed by the KSMSCL board."

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, Bihar, central Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	62	31.6	24.7	Kozhikode	0.7	32.4	24.5
Ahmedabad	16	30.5	23.5	Kurnool	–	33.1	24.1
Aizawl	–	–	20.9	Lucknow	48.4	29.7	24.8
Allahabad	31.4	30.1	24.8	Madurai	20	36.1	22.6
Bengaluru	0.2	27.7	19.8	Mangaluru	12.9	28.9	22.7
Bhopal	13.1	–	25.7	Mumbai	22	30.1	25.4
Bhubaneswar	–	34.6	25.0	Mysuru	–	29.8	20.2
Chandigarh	–	33.6	25.9	New Delhi	13	31.7	24.2
Chennai	–	34.3	27.4	Patna	4	31.4	25.7
Coimbatore	–	32.4	22.6	Port Blair	17	30.0	23.0
Dehradun	6	27.1	22.9	Puducherry	–	33.8	25.2
Gangtok	14.8	20.4	16.5	Pune	4.3	29.7	21.3
Goa	2	29.7	24.8	Raipur	–	32.2	25.0
Guwahati	0.4	33.8	25.2	Ranchi	–	29.4	23.2
Hubballi	–	28.0	21.0	Shillong	13	20.0	17.2
Hyderabad	–	29.5	22.1	Shimla	6	20.4	15.2
Imphal	–	31.4	21.1	Srinagar	–	30.5	14.0
Jaipur	4	33.6	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.6	24.3
Kochi	–	30.2	24.8	Tiruchi	0.4	36.3	25.4
Kohima	2	24.5	17.6	Vijayawada	–	32.4	26.2
Kolkata	0.5	31.7	27.0	Visakhapatnam	8	31.4	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	75	56	.38	132	153	
Bengaluru	7	12	.26	109	146	
Chennai	2	–	.80	137	100	
Delhi	9	53	.46	148	167	
Hyderabad	15	22	.25	140	180	
Kolkata	10	32	.14	136	149	
Lucknow	12	59	.64	120	159	
Mumbai	–	13	101	117	120	
Pune	21	22	.23	133	123	
Visakhapatnam	15	42	.43	161	198	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 166 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No.16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
E-mail: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/GC-1/DDP/22-23/813, Bengaluru Dated: 15-09-2022

NOTICE

Sub: Draft Karnataka Electricity Grid Code (First Amendment), 2022.

The draft amendments to the various clauses on the above subject was published in the Official Gazette of Karnataka on **03-08-2022** and the same was also made available on the KERC's Website: **www.kerc.karnataka.gov.in**

The Commission has scheduled a public hearing in the matter on **30-09-2022 at 11.00 AM in the Court Hall of the Commission.** Interested persons may appear in person before the Commission and may make oral submissions thereon.

Sd/- Secretary
DIPR/CP/2240/2022-23 For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my clients **"Mr.R.Thejakumar** S/o. late Ramaiah & **Mrs.R.Sandhya** W/o late B.S.Chandrashekar intends to purchase the Property bearing **Northern portion of Site No.38, property No.3276, Khathe No.2895, Sy.No.44, new Municipal No.49, Corporation PID No.35-163-40, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 15 feet,** having 600 sq.ft of sital area along with building, situated at **Nagarabhavi, BBMP Ward No.126, (old No.35), Maruthi Mandira, Shivanandanagar, 3rd Cross, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore, which is bounded as follows:

East : Site No.37, West : Road, North : Site No.39, South : Southern portion of site No.38.

From its owner **Mrs. K.Vanajamma W/o. P.Kalidas.** Persons having any right over the said properties may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **10 days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims over the said property.

M.V.J. Law Chamber, Advocates
52, 4th Cross, Ganesha Block, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560086
Mobile Nos.: 9538305787 / 9844402253
email : mvjlawchambers@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 16-09-2022

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building,
K.R. Circle, Bangalore-01 Ph. No. 080-22133370 Fax : 080-22133365
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com Website : www.kpwd.gov.in

Short term Tender Notification No. 20/2022-23 Date : 14.09.2022

Item-rate tenders, for the work in No.1 South Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per e-procurement procedure.Tender Notification Published for 01 work (Rs. 2700.00 Lakhs) Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal.**

Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from Dated: **14.09.2022** onwards. **(2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16:00 hours** on dated **29.09.2022 (3)** The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **30.09.2022 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimated.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
DIPR/CP/2216/Sreshta/2022-23 PWD Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No. 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Ph.: 080-22265383 **website:** www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-20/10780/2022-23 Date: 15.09.2022

SHORT - TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders are under two cover system are invited as per the Kamataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Electrical) registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work.

Name of the work: Providing Power Infrastructure & LED Street light arrangements to balance roads and sub layout at Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Industrial Area, Chamarajanagara District.

Last date for submission of bids is: **29.09.2022 up to 4:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer-1, KIADB

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that my client intend to purchase the **Eastern Portion of property bearing Site No.1&2 measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 66 Feet,** in **Sy No. 54/2,** vide conversion **No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)128/1991-92, Dated: 23-11-1991,** situated at: **Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, BSTQ,** which bounded on the **East by:** Site No.3, **West by:** Remaining Portion of Site No. 1 & 2, **North by:** Ideal Homes Layout, **South by:** Road, from its owner **Sri Sanjay Kumar Jain S/o. Sri Shambu Lal Jain,** If any person entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the said property or any part, thereof, such a person submit his/her claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing **within 10 (TEN) Days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there is no claims/objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the said site from the owner.

Place: Bangalore Date: 16.09.2022
K.V. Prema Thulasi Krishna, Advocate,
No.25, D.M. Chambers, BEML Layout
3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagara,
Bengaluru-560098. **Mob: 9341381368**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the owners of Various Survey Nos 180/1,180/2, 181/1, 181/2, 189, 190, 191, 192 & 194 situated at **Kooguru Village Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore** and Survey Nos 83/1, 83/2, 84/2 & 84/3 of **Kuthaganahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore (Totally measuring 17 Acres 11 Guntas)** which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written and hereinafter called **"the said Scheduled Property".** ALL persons including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of said Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, succession, possession, lease, tenancy, maintenance easement, license, bequeath, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, right of way, lispendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at **LEXSITUS,** No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor, 27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore 560102 or call to: 080-22583563, 080-25723339 or Email: info@lexsitus.comwithin a period of **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	Name of the owner/s	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries			
			Acres	Guntas	East By	West By	North By	South By
1.	Sri Govindraj	180/1	0	13.5	Rem portion in Sy No 180/1	Rem portion in Sy No 180/1	Road	Sy No 190 (old Sy No 46
2.	Smt. Soubhagyamma	180/1	0	13.5	Sy No 181/1	Rem portion in Sy No 180/1	Road	Sy No 190 (old Sy No 46
3.	Smt. Soubhagyamma and Smt Sarala	180/2	1	06	Sy No 182	Sy No 180	Sy No 181/1 & Sy No 181/2	Sy No 190 (old Sy. No 46)
4.	Sri Muniyappa and others	181/1	0	30	Sy No 181/2	Sy No 180/1	Road	Sy No 180/2
5.	Sri Govindraju	181/2	1	00	Sy No 181/3	Sy. No. 181/1	Road	Sy No 180/2
6.	Sri Basavaraju and others	189 (old Sy No 46)	2	02	Sy No 190	Sy No 178	Rajakaluve	Sy No 46
7.	Smt. Soubhagyamma and Smt Sarala	190 (old Sy No 46)	2	30	Sy No 182	Sy No 46	Sy No 180	Sy No 194
8.	Sri Muniyappa and others	191 (old Sy No 46)	1	00	Sy No 192	Sy No 190	Rajakaluve	Sy No 147
9.	Sri Somappa	192 (old Sy No 46)	1	00	Govt Road	Sy No 191	Rajakaluve	Sy No 84
10.	Sri Lakshminarayana	194 (old Sy No 46)	1	00	Sy No 190	Sy No 46	Rajakaluve	Sy No 147

KUTHAGANAHALLI VILLAGE

Sl. No.	Name of the owner/s	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries			
			Acres	Guntas	East By	West By	North By	South By
11.	Sri Govindraj	84/2	1	10	Sampangappa's Property	Rem portion in Sy No. 84	DobiMuniyappa's property	Rajakaluve
12.	Smt. Soubhagyamma	84/3	1	10	Rem portion in Sy No 84	Krishnappa's property	Road	Pilla Reddy's property
13.	Sri NanjundaReddya and Ramesh Reddy	83/1	2	00	Sy No 84 & Sy No 89	Pilla Reddy's property	Sy No 147	Sy No 82
14.	Sri Pilla Reddy and others	83/2	1	16	Nanjunda Reddy's Property	Muni Reddy's property	Burial Ground	Rajakaluve

ROOPA SHETTY, Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor, 27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector-1, Bangalore - 560102. Phone: 080-225835563, 99020 26199 Email: info@lexsitus.com
M : 9739901576, 7353173531, 7022369331

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
BANGALORE BENCH AT BANGALORE
Company Application (CAA) No. 19/BB/2022
In the matter of Section 230 to 232 of The Companies Act, 2013
SCHEME OF DEMERGER
OF
BHAIYA FASHIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
The Demerged Company
AND
BHAIYA INFRA PRIVATE LIMITED
The Resulting Company
AND
THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS
under sections 230 to 232 read with other applicable provisions of the companies act, 2013 and the rules framed thereunder.

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS AND SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that by and Order dated 24.08.2022, the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, has inter- alia dispensed with the meeting(s) of the Secured/Unsecured Creditors and the Equity Shareholders of the Applicant Companies subject to strict compliance of the conditions as laid down in the aforesaid order for the purpose of considering and Approving the Scheme of Demerger between the Applicant Companies as mentioned above.

A copy of the said Scheme of Demerger can be obtained free of charge, at the Registered Office of the Applicant Companies on all working days except Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.

The above Scheme is subject to Approval of the Hon'ble Tribunal. For this purpose, the Applicant Company will file necessary Petition in the Hon'ble Tribunal for seeking their approval.

Any Person whose interest is likely to be effected by the proposed scheme may send his/her/its representations, if any, within 30 days of this notice to the Hon'ble Tribunal and a copy of the same shall be simultaneously served at the Registered Office of the Applicant Companies.

For, Bhaiya Fashions Private Limited
R/O: 1-1/4,(old no. 1/1e), 4th Floor, 7th Cross, New Guddadahalli, Mysore Road, above girias showroom, Bangalore-560026, KA
Sd/-
Gaurav Bhaiya
Director

For, Bhaiya Infra Private Limited
R/O:1188/1,1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Chandralayout, Bangalore-560040, KA
Sd/-
Om Prakash Bhaiya
Director

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
SHIVAJINAGARA, BENGALURU.

Ref. No: SABVMCRI/384/2022-23, Bengaluru Date: 14-09-2022

CORRIGENDUM - RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION FOR RESIDUAL PARENT CADRE (NON HYDERABAD-KARNATAKA)

Recruitment of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor Posts in Various Departments of this Institution.

With reference to Notification No: SABVMCRI/384/2022-23 dated: 03-09-2022 Corrigendum is done to add 1 (one) post of Assistant Professor in Department of Dermatology, 1 (one) Roster Point (31st point) is added to the total post of Assistant Professors. Last date for all the other specialties will be same **(17-09-2022),** Last date for submission of application to the newly added post of Assistant Professor of Dermatology will be **22-09-2022 till 5.00 PM.**

Category of Post	Total No. of Posts	Department				Roster
Assistant Professor	31	Anatomy	1	Psychiatry	1	SC (O), GM (O), ST (O), GM (W), Cat-I (O), GM (R), 2A (O), GM (PH), SC (W), GM (W), 2B (W), GM (R), 2A (W), GM (O), SC (R), GM (W), 3A (O), GM (R), 3B (M), GM (Ex), 2A (R), GM (W), SC (PH), GM (W), 2A (PH), GM (R), SC (W), GM (KM), 2A (W), GM (W), **Cat-I (W)**
		Physiology	2	General Surgery	3	
		Biochemistry	2	Orthopedics	1	
		Pharmacology	1	ENT	1	
		Pathology	1	Ophthalmology	1	
		Microbiology	1	OBG	2	
		Community Medicine	4	Anesthesiology	2	
		General Medicine	3	Radio Diagnosis	1	
		Pediatrics	1	Dentistry	1	
		Pulmonary Medicine	1	**Dermatology**	1	

Note: Those candidates who have applied for the post of Assistant Professor in Dermatology Department in previous Notification dated: 03.08.2022 need not pay the application fee, but submit the new application through online and previous payment details have to be filled in the online application form. The downloaded acknowledgment copy along with two sets of self-attested documents with 2 recent passport size photographs should reach to Director cum Dean Office, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru - 560001 on or before 22-09-2022 till 5.00 PM.

The eligible candidates as per notification are requested to apply only online through Website: **https://sabvmcri.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Director Cum Dean
DIPR/CP/2225/Adverto/2022-23 **SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.**

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing (6 Feet) | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Curse of Goa

Mass defections undermine the electoral mandate

Eight of the Congress's 11 MLAs have merged with the ruling BJP, in the latest iteration of a Goan curse. The State has gained a particular notoriety for its politicians brazenly switching sides in utter disregard for the people's verdict. BJP Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has succeeded in splitting the Goa Congress twice in three years. In the previous Assembly, 15 of the 17 Congress MLAs left the party, a majority of them for the BJP. In the February Assembly election, the Congress fielded a large number of newcomers. All 37 of its candidates had twice taken a 'loyalty pledge,' once with leader Rahul Gandhi, in a temple, a church and a dargah, and signed affidavits vowing not to defect. All the gods could do little to prick the conscience of these MLAs who betrayed the mandate. If anything, all that drama only made this latest episode of the curse that much more of a mockery of democracy. It is not that Goa is the only place where this happens – in Bihar, the recent realignment in which the JD(U) replaced the BJP with the RJD as its partner amounted to dishonouring the popular verdict. Bihar was a rare instance of the BJP being at the receiving end of its own strategy.

The party has swung back, and in style, in Goa, though it did not need any more MLAs to be in power. In the 40-member strong Assembly, it had 20 MLAs of its own and support from three independents and two MLAs of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP). With the merger of eight Congress MLAs, the government now has the support of 33. The Congress has lost its capacity to be an effective opposition. This was in the making for months now, and the Congress had tried to avert it. As soon as it got wind of the move, the Congress removed Michael Lobo from the post of Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and Digambar Kamat from his position of being a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC). While both Mr. Lobo and Mr. Kamat have cited disaffection with the Congress high command as reasons, the true reasons are all too transparent. Despite serving as a Congress CM, Mr. Kamat, a seven-time MLA from Margao, has a history of being with the BJP as he was one of the four BJP MLAs who won in 1994. In 2014, the BJP had linked him with a multi-crore mining scam case, whose probe is still hanging over his head. BJP Minister Viswajit Rane had called for an investigation into Mr. Lobo's assets. Mr. Lobo and his wife Delilah are among the richest MLAs in the coastal State. With the defections of Aleixo Sequeira and Rodolfo Fernandes, the BJP now has a strong foothold in the Catholic-dominated South Goa. Mr. Kamat has said he went back to the temple and got the god's permission to renege on his pledge of loyalty to the Congress. The people of Goa, meanwhile, are left wondering whether their vote makes any difference.

Arbitrary, exclusionary

Even if EWS quota is upheld, eligibility will have to be properly defined

A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit is now examining the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which provides for 10% reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS), excluding Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who already have reservation in higher education institutions and government jobs. The Bench has finalised three issues for hearing – whether the amendment has breached the Constitution's basic structure by permitting the state to make special provisions; whether it does so in relation to admissions to private unaided institutions and, lastly, if the exclusion of OBC/SC/ST communities from the scope of the quota tramples on the basic structure. These are valid questions and it could be argued that the legislation of the reservation in 2019 was done hastily without due diligence of the criteria adopted. For example, the setting of an annual family income of ₹8 lakh as a ceiling to determine if someone belongs to the EWS is clearly problematic. If available consumer expenditure surveys such as the NSSO report, 'Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure, 2011-12', are relied on, a large chunk of the population will be eligible for reservations in the "below Rs. 8 lakh" EWS category and not just the truly deserving sections of the poor. A government-appointed committee submitted that this ceiling was reasonable, but it could not adequately explain how the income criterion was "more stringent" than the one for the OBC creamy layer. Also, the ₹8 lakh figure did not correspond to any data on the estimated number of EWS persons in the population with incomes related to it.

Petitioners have also argued that the net effect of the exclusion of Backward Classes and SC/ST aspirants from the EWS has been that they are now denied an opportunity to compete in the general category to the extent of 10%, in effect, limiting the quota to the "forward classes". This is a valid argument. Even if the Court agrees to maintain that reservations can be provided on economic basis – something that has been explicitly denied so far with only social and educational backwardness being mentioned in the Constitution and reiterated in several judgments – excluding people of certain communities from this benefit despite their belonging to the EWS renders the legislation discriminatory. In recent recruitment and entrance examinations such as the UPSC and JEE, marks cut-offs for admissions were lower for the EWS quota than that of the OBCs. In essence, if an income criterion for identifying the economically weaker sections has to be the basis, it must arrive at a clearly determined figure for the limit unlike the ₹8 lakh figure, and all sections of society, irrespective of caste, should be eligible to avail of reservation under this category.

Parliamentary business and an essential pit stop

Referring Bills to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees does help the process of lawmaking

DESH DEEPAK VERMA

It was heartening to have the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament (July-August), even though it was adjourned sine die on August 8, 2022, witnessing the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022 and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 being sent to the Standing Committee of Parliament for detailed examination and a report thereon.

This is a significant step in light of the fact that Parliament had only limited legislative time this session and could pass only five pieces of legislation. This has also come in the wake of constant criticism by the Opposition that has been alleging that the Government has been trying to steamroll various pieces of legislation in the last few sessions. The worry of the Government has been that so much time is lost in disruptions in Parliament that the legislative process, as it is, becomes unduly delayed and therefore, referring the bills to the Standing Committees may be counterproductive – that could only add to this delay.

Relevant parliamentary data

The functioning of the monsoon session of Parliament this year bears testimony to this fact: the Lok Sabha's productivity was 47% and the Rajya Sabha only 42%. It may be mentioned here that Parliament has 24 Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSC), comprising members of the Parliament of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the ratio 2:1, which are duly constituted by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, jointly.

The mandate of these committees is to examine various legislations referred to it, the budget proposals of different Ministries, and also to do policy thinking on the vision, mission and future direction of the Ministries concerned. The objective of this article is to examine whether these committees have been able to achieve their stated objectives, and if not or if done inadequately, what the corrective actions could be to increase their efficacy and their relevance.

The percentage of Bills having been referred to the DRSCs during the tenures of the 14th (2004-2009), 15th (2009-2014) and 16th Lok Sabhas (2014-2019) has been 60%, 71% and 27%, respectively. The fall in this percentage during the 16th Lok Sabha was witnessed largely in the second half of its session, when the Government was in a hurry to push its big ticket reforms through and the Opposition was equally adamant to stall it in view of high stakes involved in the 2019 elections.

Committee versus Parliament

Even though it is not obligatory for the Government to agree to refer each Bill to the DRSC, the experience, both nationally and internationally, has been that referring a Bill to the DRSC has been of use to the process of lawmaking. It has been alleged that Bills which are not being referred to the parliamentary committees, are not examined properly, especially from the perspective of consumers and stakeholders and remain just a bureaucratically conceived piece of legislation. As proof of this, the case of the three Farm Bills is cited as they were passed without being referred to the DRSC and had to be withdrawn later.

Even though there could be many reasons for the withdrawal of the three Farm Bills – some of it political – it needs to be understood that the examination of the Bills by the parliamentary committees is more to the benefit of the Government than the Opposition. The simple reason for this is that the tenor and the ambience of the discussions in the parliamentary committee and in Parliament are two entirely different things. The committee meetings are in camera and, therefore, the meetings are held in a comparatively congenial atmosphere of bonhomie and cordiality than they would be in Parliament.

V.V. KRISHNAN

The deliberations in these committees mostly add value to the content of the legislation and, more often than not, the Members, their party positions notwithstanding, try to reach a consensus. Additionally, such pieces of legislation after examination in the committees, have some sort of ownership of the members of the committee, both from the ruling side and the Opposition, even though it is also a function of the skill of the chairman of the committee.

Governments and the ruling party should not be wary of these committees, as in most of these committees, the government has a majority and the final decision is always by the process of majority voting. Therefore, there is no reason why any government should shy away from referring Bills to the committee. Skilled and experienced Ministers know this and generally have no aversion to a Bill being referred to to the committees. So, fostering the trust of parliamentarians, both from the ruling party and the Opposition parties, in the relevance and usefulness of the system of the committees is of paramount importance.

Consider these steps

It has been observed that the reluctance to refer the Bills to the committee arises more out of inaction and ignorance of the Ministry concerned, and rarely out of ideological or policy reasons. So, the following changes could be suggested to be made into procedures meant for consideration of Bills.

First, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha have powers to refer Bills to a DRSC of Parliament. This requirement is often given a go by for various political or administrative reasons. It may be useful to make the process of reference of Bills to these committees compulsory/an automatic process. An exemption could be made with the specific approval of the Speaker/Chairman after detailed reasons for the same. The prerogative of the House to refer the Bills to the Standing committee, through an amendment, would, of course, remain unaffected.

Second, all discussions in the Parliamentary Standing Committee should be frank and free. For this, it may be provided that during the discussions of the committee meetings, no whip of the party would apply to them. In any case, they have the liberty to vote in favour or against the Bill in Parliament.

Third, the committees can be given a fixed timeline to come up with the recommendation and present its report which can be decided by the Speaker/Chairman. The committees mostly abide by this direction of the Speaker/Chairman. But to deal with just political exigencies, it can be provided that in case the committee fails to give its recommendation within the approved/extended time, the Bill may be put up before the House concerned directly.

Fourth, to ensure quality work in the committees, experts in the field may be invited who could bring with them the necessary domain knowledge and also help introduce the latest developments and trends in that field from worldwide. It would be value for money if some subject matter experts/young researchers could be associated with the committee for a short period.

Fifth, the Speaker/Chairman should have the right to fix a time limit, sometimes even stringent, if the government of the day asks for it and the demand is found to be reasonable by the Speaker/Chairman.

Sixth, between two sessions, there is generally enough time to organise committee meetings for discussions on Bills in the parliamentary committees. Sometimes, the government and the committee chairmen are lax in this respect, and then try to push through these pieces of legislation when the next session is announced. Hence, it is important for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to keep an eye on this and, in collaboration with the committee chairmen, get these parliamentary works organised during the intersessional period, in advance.

Seventh and last, when it comes to the budget proposals of the Ministries, the committees should not limit themselves to discussing just the budget proposals and endorsing them with a few qualifications here or amendments there. They should also come up with suggestions for the Ministry to take up new initiatives and people-friendly measures.

Desh Deepak Verma is a former Indian Administrative Service officer and a former Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha

Climate action that runs on cooperative federalism

The outcome of the 'Grand Challenge 1', a tender for electric buses, is an innovative model for India and the world

MAHUA ACHARYA

India's procurement of 5,450 electric buses and subsequent increase in ambition to have 50,000 e-buses on the country's roads by 2030 represent the immense potential for progress on climate and development goals through close collaboration between the Union and State governments. With the shared aim to rapidly electrify a key pillar of India's public transportation, recent governance efforts have created a new business model for e-buses. If this sector is further developed, it can reduce air pollution in cities and fuel import bills, improve the balance sheets of State transport companies, and spur domestic manufacturing and job creation.

State of State-owned buses

There are currently around 1,40,000 registered public buses on India's roads, with large numbers of them having sputtering engines that spew planet-warming fumes into the atmosphere. At least 40,000 of these buses are at the end of their lifespan and must be taken off the roads immediately.

However, most buses are owned and operated by State transport undertakings, which are in poor financial health. In part, they incur large losses because they play an important social function by providing subsidised fares to crores of Indians each day. With a few exceptions such as Mumbai's Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (BEST) of the Brihanmumbai Mahanagarpalika, when State transport undertakings go to the market to buy buses, they face problems of fragmented demand and high prices. Furthermore, there are limitations to nation-wide action on this issue as State governments control issues such as transit, urban governance and pollution control.

A success story

Until recently, there had never been a unified tender to address some of these challenges. Cooperative federalism can easily become a fraught issue. However, in the case of the Grand Challenge 1, a tender for 5,450 buses (across five major Indian cities – Kolkata, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Surat), the opposite happened. Instead of a race to the bottom, the respective expertise, strengths and needs of Union Ministries and States informed the process and the successful outcomes.

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a nodal agency of the Union government, acted as the programme manager in this effort at centralised procurement in concert, with State-led demand and customisation. Coordination between a range of Union government Ministries and State governments standardised demand conditions across these five cities and discovered prices that beat the increasingly outmoded internal combustion engines.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

On a cost-per-kilometre basis, the prices discovered were 40% lower than diesel and 34% less than CNG (without factoring in the subsidy through FAME-II). A note on FAME: the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-India) Scheme was launched under the National Mission on Electric Mobility in 2011/National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020, and unveiled in 2013. The scheme encourages the progressive induction of reliable, affordable and efficient electric and hybrid vehicles.

With high fuel prices and energy security challenges in the wake of the war in Ukraine, the switch to electric vehicles appears even more sensible and lucrative.

This inflection point in unit economics was enabled by three key factors: collaboration, pace and transparency. First, the tender itself was a fully consultative process and varied contributions by participants already influenced the design of future tenders. Second, there was a shared sense of urgency that shaped this collaboration, which leveraged the bureaucracy's power when working on time-bound and measurable schemes and increased receptivity to creative and new ideas. Finally, transparency was the most resilient quality of a public process. From the outset, there was clarity about the intention to engender trust and build a publicly available process and tender that invited bids from automakers and operators.

In the wake of the first tender, it was incredibly gratifying to share a feeling of success with five States, five Transport Ministers, five State Secretaries and the heads of a range of State transport undertakings, each of whom had played a part in the process.

To be clear, excessive centralisation can have limitations and contradict the federal principles enshrined in the Constitution. For instance, India's States and districts vary vastly in their vulnerability to climate impacts, and decentralised decision-making and locally-led adaptation will help reduce potential damage to lives and livelihoods. Urban local bodies and gram panchayats can be the heart of climate action.

However, in certain areas where India must move the needle quickly or where States lack size and financial clout, such as the electrification of mass mobility, centralised procurement and programme management can deliver architectural transformations rather than just incremental transitions.

There is much work ahead

Although a good start has been made, much work remains to be done to enable the electrification of mass mobility in India. The country's shift to clean public transportation will require a suite of efforts, from ramping up manufacturing capacity to domestic battery production to building out charging infrastructure (ideally plugged in to a grid powered by renewables) to capacity building of State transport undertakings to developing financial instruments and structures.

Nonetheless, the progress we have made on electric bus tendering is a harbinger of climate action made possible by cooperative federalism. As India now ramps up its demand to deploy 50,000 buses across 40 cities, it will need to continue the spirit of true inter-ministerial and Union-State collaboration to fulfil its ambitious targets for green and inclusive economic development. The combined clout and strength of the federal compact can enable large strides being made towards innovative models that not only improve transit, the quality of life in cities and progress towards national climate goals but also build models for the rest of the world to emulate.

Mahua Acharya is Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Convergence Energy Services Limited, Government of India. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

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Flip-flops, Goan style

By jumping ship, the eight Congress MLAs in Goa have administered a severe shock to the party (Page 1, "Congress meltdown in Goa as 8 MLAs defect to BJP", September 15). It is not only the oath the defectors had taken before god, at a temple, a dargah and a church, but also political etiquette and democratic values that have gone for a toss in the coastal State. The developments are also an indicator of the serious shortcomings in the fire-fighting mechanism within the Congress party. One aspect is clear. It appears that the key national party is trying to unsettle the Grand Old Party by the time the GOP finishes its all-India *padayatra*.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ The accompanying visual in the report, which shows unconcealed glee written on the faces of the MLAs who have defected, is enough to leave any reader disgusted and shocked.
The MLAs have betrayed their electoral mandate and have conveniently joined the national party concerned for personal benefits. It is a pity that such selfish and greedy persons who are besotted with power and money have been elected lawmakers. Voters are also helpless and responsible for such unscrupulous happenings. Voters need to teach such MLAs a lesson they will never forget.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ The political development is also a blow against the Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. Those who matter in the party will find it hard to explain why the party that is on a lofty mission to unite India cannot even hold its flock together under trying circumstances. Disgruntled senior party leaders and power-hungry legislators are the twin challenges that the Congress faces in its battle for survival. The new Congress president will have to identify unscrupulous fortune seekers masquerading as loyal workers and weed them out. With mass defections to the BJP having become rampant, any election and its outcome is now irrelevant. The Bharatiya Janata Party has proved that it will form governments wherever and whenever it wants irrespective of the election result. The bitter irony now is that people who venture to vote for non-BJP candidates eventually end up backing a party that they did not choose to vote for.

ABDUL ASSIS. P.A.,
Kandassankadavu, Thrissur, Kerala

Hindi use

The Union Home Minister appears to have stirred up controversy with his statements on Hindi use; they may have the unintended consequence of resurrecting anti-Hindi sentiments in the southern States. Many in India have begun to realise that English use is a window to the larger world. English is a key means of communication in an increasingly globalised world. What the Minister should have focused on or advised his colleague who looks after Education is to step up outlay on education and ensure that schools in India reach modern standards in terms of facilities. All efforts should be directed towards quality education for all. Creating controversy and generating resentment against certain languages are unnecessary.

M.P. MURALIDHARAN,
Bengaluru

■ One fails to get the import of what the Minister means when he says that speaking to children in their mother tongue would lead to an effortless learning of Hindi. One also wonders why there is a move by the Centre to push Hindi use in offices and banks abroad. There are serious issues that require the attention of the Government. Why is the Home Minister so worried about Hindi use?

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

Should India choose manufacturing over services?

PARLEY

Manufacturing can create higher productivity jobs; but India's limited state capacity is a risk

Earlier this week, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Raghuram Rajan, questioned the Central government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, arguing that it works against the interests of Indian consumers. In doing so, he revived the larger debate on the government's efforts to promote the country's manufacturing sector through subsidies, and on its relative importance vis-a-vis the services sector. Ajay Shah and Nagesh Kumar discuss this issue and talk about creating enabling conditions, in a discussion moderated by **Prashanth Perumal J**. *Edited excerpts:*

Ajay Shah
is Research Professor of Business at Jindal Global University, Sonepat

Nagesh Kumar
is Director at the Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Should government policy focus on promoting any particular sector of the economy?

Ajay Shah: I'm sceptical of the state bureaucracy being able to understand and anticipate which sectors will do well and which sectors will do badly. It is very difficult to forecast the future. Only risk-taking entrepreneurs can take speculative bets, such as saying the computer hardware industry or automobile component manufacturing will do well in India. Who could have predicted that two-wheelers in India would fight off foreign competition pretty well while dozens of other manufacturing businesses would get butchered by foreign competition? It is not feasible for officials in bureaucracies to look at the industrial landscape and make speculative calls. That's because they do not have the necessary information or the forecasting ability. Nor do they have the incentive, like private businesses do. Also, there is nobody to protect them if their speculation goes wrong; when their speculation goes wrong, they will be investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate. So, which official is ever going to take a risk? For all these reasons, the task of figuring out which sector to focus on is best left to the private sector. The job of the government is to create a broad enabling environment.

Nagesh Kumar: I have a slightly different view. I think the history of development not just in developing countries, but also in industrialised countries today tells a different story. They all made strategic interventions, or had an industrial policy. While I agree that the government can't do everything, prioritising certain sectors that have desirable features such as higher job creation or greater industrialisation is welcome. There was a time when industrial policy had become a bad word, but it has resurfaced in an aggressive manner with different countries favouring certain industries. The latest example is the 2022 CHIPS [and Science] Act in the U.S., under which some $50 billion in incentives will be given to American companies to develop or to strengthen their semiconductor industry. Each of the East Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, China and Vietnam has a story of strategic interventions by the state and has become a manufacturing powerhouse running consistent trade and current account surpluses. There is something to be learned from them. In such a context, the Centre's decision to promote the manufacturing sector is timely because India has favoured an agriculture and services-dominated economy over the years.

Should India focus on manufacturing over services?

NK: So far, in services, we have certainly developed some advantage and we are doing rather well. Services' share of the economy has gone up to over 50% of the GDP. However, this sector has not been able to create enough jobs in a commensurate manner. The result is that agriculture still continues to sustain nearly half of India's workforce, which means that 15% of GDP is supporting some 45% of the workforce. We need more productive job opportunities for the workforce to shift away from agriculture. We need to focus attention on the manufacturing sector because of the direct and indirect jobs that it can create. It is an empirical fact that manufacturing of all productive sectors has the highest backward and forward linkages. So, all together, there is significant potential for the manufacturing sector to create higher productivity jobs for people stuck in agricultural activities. That is the future for India.

SIVA SARAVANAN S.

When we are trying to revive our economy, we need to persuade investors to invest. And for that, some incentivisation is important.

AJAY SHAH

AS: On industrial policy, when we look at world history, we see many attempts by governments to pick winners. It is always possible to find interventions which look good with the benefit of hindsight. But at the same time, there are many more stories of failure. Everyone who thinks that you should have a strong leader and points to [former Prime Minister of Singapore] Lee Kuan Yew as an example of how well a strong leader works also needs to counterbalance this with the fact that there are hundreds of strong leaders all over the world who have done badly. So, while it is always possible to find individual episodes, such as the role of the Taiwanese government in fostering the semiconductor ecosystem in Taiwan, it is also possible to identify a very large number of failure stories. And the overall assessment of industrial policy is not good.

Second, we should think about the country that we operate in. We should think about state capacity, bureaucratic capacity, the incentives of policymakers, the capabilities of policymakers, etc. We've got to come up with policy ideas that are sensitive to our realities. There was remarkable civil service quality in the early years after independence in India. Later, interventionist policies led to a corrosion of civil service quality and of state capacity. So, we should be careful in giving high discretion in the hands of the state. Since we already have low state capacity, the greater the discretion in the hands of the state, the greater the danger of further corroding state capacity.

Aren't schemes like the PLI prone to the risk of cronyism?

NK: It is possible that the PLI would lead to some kind of cronyism. But when subsidies are linked to performance, there is little room for discretion. There are objective criteria which have been defined, such as you getting a certain percentage in incentive if you perform better than last year. And of course, one can have third-party verification of performance to minimise misuse. Also, as we go along, we can tighten the criteria further to things such as export performance, competitiveness and innovation. So, it is possible to have an incentive system and achieve most of the objectives without major problems.

AS: If you read the details of the PLI policy framework and the industries that it applies to, of course it is subject to many discretionary decisions. There are always pushes and pulls. When these frameworks are established, only large firms are able to do the hard work of pounding the corridors of power, and engaging with the government, filling in all the forms and getting these benefits. If there are structural problems, it's better to go to the root cause and solve it because then everybody benefits, every company – large or small, domestic or outward oriented – benefits from a more rational policy environment. If there is a mistake in the GST (Goods and Services Tax), solve it; if there is a mistake in the Companies Act, solve it; if there is a mistake in income tax treatment, solve it. I don't buy it when people say electricity is expensive in India or labour is cheap. The competitive advantage of operating in India is that labour is cheap. But it doesn't mean everything has to be cheap. There will be a variety of inputs that goes into an industry and each firm has to figure out whether it is competitive to operate in India. What policymakers should focus on is just mistakes of public policy. We should focus on things like the way the Companies Act works, the way Indian capital controls work, the way income tax works, the way GST works, etc.

Shouldn't the government liberalise all sectors and let market forces decide outcomes?

NK: The sectors that have been selected by the government include some of the new sunrise sectors, such as the semiconductor industry, which are highly import-dependent. The feeling is that we can make some of these things in India a part of a domestic industrialisation drive. Industries have been chosen based on where there is an opportunity to create new industries or reduce the dependence on imports, or where there are high spillovers or linkages to other sectors. So, industries benefiting from these subsidies have not been randomly chosen. Of course, one could argue that there are also other sectors that merit subsidies, but one has to start somewhere. The start would obviously be from the most promising sectors and sunrise sectors which are coming up. I don't think these sectors have been selected to benefit a particular individual. You could find one or two of them, but most represent opportunities that India should be exploiting at this moment.

AS: I remain sceptical, as economic policymakers do not have a crystal ball to know the future. In India's history, the decisions of some of the most respected thinkers and policymakers, when it comes to favouring this or that sector, have proved to be wrong. So I just don't find it persuasive that we have the forecasting capacity. It is risky, it is speculative, and the word speculative appropriately belongs in the private sector. You want to trade on the stock market? I'm all for sophisticated discussion on that. Should we be buying the stocks of a labour-intensive garment company? Or should we be buying the shares of an electronics manufacturing company? That's a discussion for private speculators to have; it's not a discussion for people in public policy. And I just want to come back to the argument that since in the U.S. there is the CHIPS Act, that justifies a similar policy in India. I have two problems with that. First, as Ashok Desai stated, 'Every bad idea has been adopted in at least one good country.' For example, because they have agricultural subsidies in Europe, you will argue that we should have agricultural subsidies in India. That's a slippery slope. We should always be able to argue things from first principles. And then remember the magnitude of the numbers we are comparing. When you look at the European agriculture subsidy divided by European GDP, it's nothing. When you take the American subsidies for chips and divide it by the American GDP, it's nothing. Whereas here, in India, if you think of a trillion dollars of exports, and then 6% of that, it's taking a significant chunk out of the tiny amount of tax revenues of the Indian state.

NK: I don't buy this argument. Until a policy has been implemented, how will you know if it is right or wrong? When we are trying to revive our economy, and we want the investment cycle to pick up, we need to persuade investors to invest. And for that, some incentivisation is important, especially in the context of other countries offering incentives. If we don't offer incentives, we do so at our own peril. So, we need to be vigilant. It is an open economy context that we are working in; it is not a closed economy context any more. So, we have to see what others are doing. And if you don't, all the investments of chip manufacturers will simply go to the U.S. or Taiwan. Wherever they get more incentives, they will go, and we won't get any of them. So, I feel that what has been done through the PLI, and the current focus of the government to promote the manufacturing sector, is the right thing to do at this moment.

NOTEBOOK

A dilemma over blood donation

Not taking sides and not getting involved is an art that journalists have to master

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"How many of you here volunteer to donate blood?" This question wouldn't have drawn any attention in, say, an emergency hospital setting, but it was unexpected at a press conference. The person asking the question was a Central government Minister, who had just announced a series of 'humanitarian programmes' to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 70th birthday celebrations on September 17.

The act of donating blood is undoubtedly noble as it helps save lives. Most blood donors do this voluntarily. But for journalists sitting there, the question suddenly threw up a dilemma. We were there to report the programmes being announced, not volunteer to participate in them. Some of us wondered, how much involvement with a story is too much? Should we become part of the news that we were reporting? And what causes demand a journalist to switch roles from reporter to someone involved in the story? The tussle between professional ethics and empathy, though these categories are not mutually exclusive, is something journalists face with every story.

The blood donation programme, to be organised by the Union Health Ministry, aims to bring over one lakh units of blood into blood banks across the country. As soon as he made the announcement, the Minister wanted a show of hands to know how many would be willing to be part of this donation. Following the question, hands shot up and some judgmental eyes scanned the room, which was packed with reporters and Ministry staff. The Minister presented the programme as "our" contribution to the humanitarian work being done by the Prime Minister.

It is true that the line between reporter and subject gets crossed sometimes and the heart does take over the head. Reporters sometimes sit down to wipe the tears of their interviewees. Many of my reporter friends have emptied their purses and lunch boxes for their interviewees. Some have even been advocates of causes, asking higher authorities to help a person or group.

But does that allow us to do our job of reporting 'as it is'? More important, is there a correct answer to these questions? In this context, who did the right thing: the journalists who raised their hands or those who did not?

In a world where the form and flavour of news is rapidly changing, choices also make news. The famous example of this is the South African photojournalist Kevin Carter. Carter photographed 'The Struggling Girl', which showed a child, later revealed to be a boy, slumped on dry grass in hunger, while being watched keenly by a vulture. Carter won a Pulitzer Prize for the photograph. But he found himself, not the child, being the subject of discussion, with people asking why he did not help the emaciated child.

This dilemma is often at the heart of human-interest stories that journalists report, whether big or small. Our professional ethics demand that we report honestly, accurately and without manipulating the story, getting involved with the subject or taking sides. Besides this, reporters often work with the handicap of not being aware of the entire story when we walk into one.

Listening to our gut feeling and thinking with our heart is what we often do initially, but training and experience thankfully kick in soon enough. Not taking sides and not getting involved is an art that journalists have to master. Forcing someone on a job to take a side or get involved isn't a welcome move.

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DATA POINT

Will Iran make a comeback?

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Erabhim Raisi are likely to discuss the revival of oil imports from Iran. After the U.S. ended waivers that allowed the import of crude from Iran without sanctions, India stopped buying oil from Iran in FY19. In the immediate years before the ban, Iran was India's third biggest source of crude oil. In fact, between FY07 to FY09 Iran was the second biggest source after Saudi Arabia. Interestingly, after Iran's exit, India filled the void by importing oil from the U.S., the country which initiated the sanctions. However, in FY23, the U.S.'s share in India's oil imports halved and Russia became the third-biggest source. Russia's share in India's crude oil imports was close to 14% in FY23. Notably, the last time Russia's share was this high was in the late 1980s when it was still part of the Soviet Union. With international crude oil prices soaring, local consumption of petroleum products back to pre-pandemic levels and the U.S. calling for sanctions against Russia, Iran may make a comeback as a major oil partner for India. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan** and **Rebecca Rose Varghese**

1 Share of imports | The table lists the **% share of a country in India's total crude oil imports**. Iran was the third biggest source before the ban in FY19. Currently, most of India's oil is being imported from Iraq and Saudi Arabia, with Russia's share surging ahead of the U.S.'s. In the table, years are shortened: 88 corresponds to FY1988, 00 is FY2000 and so on

Year	USSR	Iran	Venezuela	Yemen	Egypt	Malaysia	Qatar	Oman	Nigeria	Kuwait	USA	UAE	Russia	Saudi	Iraq
88	4	4			2	2				5		27		51	5
89	17	9				3				11		26		25	10
90	13	16			1	5		1		2		20		33	8
91	6	17		1	2	5		1	4	7		28		28	
92		10		0	2	6	2		16	15		21	0	26	
93		9		2	2	2	1		24	14		19		28	
94		11			4	4			12	16		27		25	
95		12			1	3			21	19		19		25	
96		13			1	4			28	15		17		22	
97		10			4	4	0		24	15		15		21	4
98		7			4	6			30	14		17		18	4
99		9		3	4	5	1	1	31	12		14		19	2
00		12		6	6	4	3	1	17	13	0	12		24	2
06		13	1	4	1	5	2		15	10		8	0	23	12
07		15	1	3	1	4	0	0	12	10		9	0	24	10
08		14	5	1	1	4	2	1	11	10	0	12	0	21	11
09		15	3	2	2	2	3	3	9	10		8	1	18	9
10		11	6	2	1	1	3	3	12	9		8	0	18	8
11		8	5	1	2	2	4	3	11	10	0	9		19	14
12		8	8	1	1	1	5	0	9	11	0	9	0	19	13
13		5	10	0	1	1	3	1	9	11		8	0	21	14
14		7	10	0	1	2	3	0	11	10		9	0	19	12
15		6	9	0	1	2	2	0	13	6	0	9	0	21	16
16		11	8		1	3	3	0	11	5	0	9	0	20	16
17		11	7	0	1	2	2	2	9	5	1	8	2	18	19
18		11	7	0	1	2	1	1	8	5	3	8	1	19	20
19		3	6		1	2	1	1	9	5	5	10	1	20	21
20			4		1	1	2	2	8	5	6	12	1	19	23
21					1	1	1	3	8	6	10	11	2	17	24
22				0	1	1	1	3	7	7	9	10	2	19	25
23					1	1	1	3	4	5	5	12	14	17	23

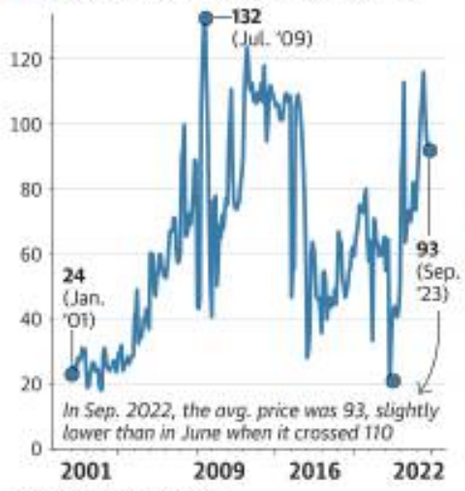
- *In the 1990s, Nigeria and Kuwait were major sources of oil.*
- *The UAE, which was the second biggest source in the 90s, recorded a decline thereafter. However, lately it has been picking up again.*
- *Data were not available between FY01 and FY05*

2 Consumption spikes | The table lists the consumption of select petroleum products (in 1,000 metric tonnes) in India

Products	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
LPG	9,309	9,997	10,369	10,993	11,220	11,365
Petrol	10,907	11,798	12,933	9,668	12,109	14,595
Diesel	33,519	34,880	35,523	25,394	30,149	35,142

In FY23, consumption has gone back to pre-pandemic levels. The data pertain to the April-August months of each year

3 Crude shock | The chart shows the average crude oil prices (Indian basket) in $/barrel



SOURCE: COMTRADE, PPAC

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 16, 1972

Pak. asked to account for 200 Indians

New Delhi, Sept. 15: The Government of India has taken up with Pakistan the question of about 200 Indian nationals captured by Pakistan from areas occupied by it during the December war, but yet to be accounted for by it. The International Committee of the Red Cross has also been requested to get in touch with Islamabad to ascertain the whereabouts and welfare of these Indian nationals. The exchange of civilians captured by India and Pakistan during the December conflict will take place during the next four days at Wagah checkpost.

According to official sources, Pakistan had captured about 500 Indian nationals, when its army occupied some Indian territories on the western sector and out of them, 300 are being returned on September 16 and 17. While Pakistan is holding back 200 nationals captured by it, India has decided to hand over all the 700 Pakistani civilians captured when the Indian army occupied some Pakistani territories. The repatriation of Pakistani civilian prisoners will take place at Wagah checkpost on September 18 and 19.

Besides this, Indian nationals who had gone to Pakistan before the conflict on valid travel documents and got stranded there when the hostilities broke out will be allowed to return home. Similarly, Pakistan nationals stranded in India will be free to return home. The proposal for reciprocal action on this question was made by India in February last but Pakistan responded only in August last year.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT 16, 1922

Reparations

Berlin, Sept. 14: It is reported that Government is sending the Governor of the Reichsbank to negotiate with the Bank of England regarding guarantees for reparations treasury bills.

Paris, Sept. 15: An inspired statement is published pointing out that the period of grace to Germany in respect of the payment of the hundred million gold marks, representing sums due in August and September expires to-night. The statement declares that Germany is able to meet the payment, but if it is not fulfilled, Belgium, to whom money is payable, will not fail to notify the Reparations Commission, which will then proclaim Germany's default and the Allies will have to consider the necessary measures to be adopted

FROM PAGE ONE

Goa Cong. Legislature Party merges with BJP

"This is a sad day for the Congress as well as for Goa... the BJP is practising this *modus operandi* everywhere. Where are such massive amounts of money coming from? They are brazenly misusing the power by breaking elected representatives from other parties," said Mr. Rao, who reached the coastal State for damage assessment on Thursday.

Conspiracy to split

Calangute MLA Michael Lobo had been named the Leader of Opposition after the Assembly election result in February, but was swiftly removed from the post after the party leadership found him conspiring along with Digambar Kamat to split the Congress in coordination with the ruling BJP.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee chief Amit Patkar revealed that one of the MLA who had defected had allegedly been approached with ₹30 crore in cash.

Stressing that the remaining three MLAs of the Congress would take up people's issues, Mr. Rao, alluding to the defections, said that the "second round of garbage" had left the Congress.

Hemant Soren wants clarity from Governor

Earlier, when BJP leaders had petitioned Mr. Bais seeking Mr. Soren's "disqualification" from the Assembly in the office-of-profit case, the ECI had reportedly sent its decision to the Governor on August 25, which sparked a political row in the State. BJP leaders had accused Mr. Soren of awarding the lease of a stone chips mine in his and his younger brother Basant Soren's name in 2019, at a time when was holding the post of the State's Mines Minister in a "clear violation" under Section 9(A) of the Representation of People's Act, 1951. Mr. Soren in a strong rebuttal has said the lease of the mine was given to him in 2008 and was to be renewed after 10 years, in 2019.

On September 1, a group of UPA leaders submitted a memorandum to the Governor, requesting him to clear the air over Mr. Soren's "disqualification". Mr. Soren later won a trust vote in the Assembly, with 48 MLAs supporting his government.

The ruling coalition UPA has the support of 49 MLAs in the 81-member Assembly. The Opposition BJP has 26 MLAs.

Tamil Nadu CM launches Breakfast Scheme

Meal mates: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin having breakfast with the students of a school in Madurai on Thursday. •R. ASHOK

Mr. Stalin said, "They said that they usually don't eat in the morning, which struck a chord. Many officials and teachers affirmed the same. That spark led to the birth of the free breakfast scheme. Through this scheme, every student shall enter classrooms with their stomachs full."

The schoolchildren sat alongside the Chief Minister and broke their fast with a serving of vegetable *rava khichdi*, *rava kesari* and *sambar* - the menu for Thursdays.

The significant breakfast scheme has been rolled out after 102 years, when P. Theagaraya Chetty, the then President of the Corporation (Mayor) of the Justice Party approved the proposal to provide tiffin to students of a Corporation School at Thousand Lights, Chennai, Mr. Stalin said.

The scheme, in due course, was improved upon by former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj, who introduced mid-day meals for government primary schools, followed by former Chief Ministers M. G. Ramachandran, M. Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa, who extended the programme's coverage to anganwadis, he said.

Mr. Stalin urged authorities to serve children with utmost care and treat them as their own while he asked students to focus on their academics and to reach higher positions in life.

Meanwhile, at Chennai, commenting on the launch of the free breakfast scheme, AIADMK leader and former Minister for Fisheries D. Jayakumar, said there were several electoral promises such as the provision of ₹ 1,000 per month to women and return to the old pension scheme for the government staff which remained unimplemented.

(With inputs from Chennai)

Delay in PMAY-G scheme to invite penalty

The circular has specified that no penalty would be imposed if the central funds are not available with the State.

Out of the remaining 93 lakh houses, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal are the biggest offenders. The Union Government is yet to release funds for 12 lakh houses in Chhattisgarh and 11 lakh houses in West Bengal. Funds to both these States for this financial year were withheld for various lapses.

In case of West Bengal, after complaints from the BJP MPs from the State against the Mamata Banerjee government's move to repackage the scheme as *Bangla Awas Yojana* and other procedural gaps, the Union Government had withheld funds due to pending response from the State government. The decision to release the funds now lies with Union Minister Giriraj Singh.

Among other States, Assam has not sanctioned seven lakh houses and Odisha has not sanctioned nine lakh houses. Maharashtra with 2.5 lakh houses and Bihar with two lakh houses are also among top offenders.

Nothing to hide in Congress presidential poll, says Mistry

New president can appoint State chiefs as per the resolutions by PCC delegates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The entire process to elect a new Congress president is and will always be "open" and the party has nothing to hide, chairman of the party's Central Election Authority, Madhusudan Mistry, said on Thursday.

Mr. Mistry also clarified that the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates will pass resolutions authorising the new Congress president to appoint the party's State chiefs and All India Congress Committee (AICC) delegates, and these resolutions will have no bearing on the polls to elect the party's president.

The clarification came after a section of the media reported that the PCCs would authorise the Gandhis to pick a new party chief.

Madhusudan Mistry displays an identification card and a list of PCC delegates, at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi. •PTI

"The Pradesh Returning Officers will call a meeting of PCC delegates, where they will pass resolutions to authorise the incoming president to appoint PCC presidents and AICC delegates," Mr. Mistry said, adding, "This process will have no bearing on the election of the new Congress president."

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Mr. Mistry reiterated that those seeking to file nominations for the post of AICC president and seeking the support of 10 PCC delegates from different States to sign on their form can see the list of the over 9,000 delegates at the AICC's Central Election Authority's office from September 20.

Alternatively, they can check if the person concerned has a QR code-bearing identification card, he said.

The election to the post of Congress president will be carried out by over 9,000 PCC delegates. With the passing of the resolutions by the PCC delegates, the new president will then be able to appoint new PCC or State unit chiefs and AICC delegates.

The AICC delegates, in turn, can elect members to the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

He noted that if there is a consensus on the names of 23 members, then polls may not be required.

Shun militancy, says Azad at Kashmir rally

'J&K shouldn't see deaths any more'

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and ex-Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday addressed a rally in volatile south Kashmir and appealed to people to "shun militancy and guns".

"Those nations - from Afghanistan to Iraq to Palestine - that took to guns and militancy saw nothing but destruction. Generations were lost. I don't want J&K to witness more bodies of our boys on the streets. Our boys were killed by militants and many died in encounters," he said, while addressing supporters in Anantnag.

Mr. Azad, who is touring J&K ahead of the launch of his party, reiterated that he would not play with religious emotions and win elections.

"*Azaadi* [independence] could not be achieved. Many elections were fought on autonomy and self-rule. Nothing fruitful came out except dead bodies. Why should I raise such slogans?" he added.

Ghulam Nabi Azad

Meanwhile, Mr. Azad claimed that militants had threatened to kill him. "In a threat letter, it was said that I met Union Home Minister Amit Shah before visiting J&K. It's wrong as I did not meet him," he said.

CPI hits out at Cong. govt. for ban on Sukma march

'When Rahul is on a yatra, why not us?'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (CPI) strongly criticised the Congress government in Chhattisgarh for refusing permission for a 100-km padayatra from Silger to Sukma, to be organised by the party in solidarity with the tribal community protesting against alleged police atrocities.

Calling the move "highly undemocratic", the party sought to remind the Congress that its own Bharat Jodo Yatra was currently passing through Kerala, ruled by the Left parties.

In a statement, the National Secretariat of the CPI said, "The Chhattisgarh government's action is unconstitutional. Suppression of democratic movement is the reason for people to adopt non-democratic methods of resistance, which is not in the interests of progress and development." The party urged the Bhupesh Baghel government to revoke its decision.

Protest against firing

The tribal community in Silger has been holding a long-drawn protest seeking action against police officials involved in the firing of May 17 last year that killed three villagers, who were protesting against a new security camp. It also wants the government to set up schools and hospitals in Bastar rather than security camps.

"We must remind that Rahul Gandhi is on a padayatra but a CPI yatra is not allowed," the CPI said.

Allahabad HC rejects AMU students' pleas on police action

'Students enter universities for the purpose of education'

ISHITA MISHRA
NEW DELHI

The Bench of Chief Justice of Allahabad HC and Justice J.J. Munir dismissed a bunch of petitions filed expressing concerns regarding the anti-CAA protest that took at the campus of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) followed by the police's actions on protestors.

The court observed that students enter universities or any educational institution for the purpose of education and not indulge in activities which bring a bad name to great educational institutions.

The court ordered the administration of the AMU to establish a mechanism for better communication with the students' fraternity so that they are not influenced by outsiders. It maintained that communication channels should always remain open with students.

The matter pertains to a protest that was held at AMU on December 15, 2019, in which the petitioners claimed that students were peacefully protesting, and the police provoked and later cane-charged them.

The HC, in January 2020 had ordered an inquiry in the matter which was done by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The inquiry had to be done both on the students' claims and the police's action.

According to the court order whose copy is with *The Hindu*, the dismissal of multiple pleas came after reviewing of the report of the NHRC which had criticized students' as well as the police's action. It also had several recommendations for both State and the institution.

"Nothing survives in the petitions. Dismissed," the court stated.

IN BRIEF

Devoted to Jan Suraj drive: Prashant Kishor

PATNA

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor's meeting with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on September 13 appears to have been a flop for Mr. Kumar as the former on Thursday asserted that he was "committed to his *Jan Suraj* movement and tour across Bihar.

7 clerics arrested under PSA in Kashmir Valley

SRINAGAR

Seven clerics, including two prominent religious scholars, were arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in the past 24 hours in the Kashmir Valley. The Act allows preventive detention of up to two years without trial. A senior police officer said that two religious figures and five Jamaat-e-Islami activists were arrested so far.

Former Gujarat Minister held on swindling charge

AHMEDABAD

Gujarat's Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday arrested former Gujarat Minister of State for Home and former Chairman of the Mehsana District Milk Producing Federation, Vipul Chaudhary, for allegedly misappropriating ₹750 crore pertaining to the Dudhsagar dairy.

RSS to have first woman chief guest on Oct. 5

NEW DELHI

Mountaineer Santosh Yadav is to be the chief guest of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh's (RSS) foundation day event on October 5, said sources. For the first time in its history, the RSS invites a woman in such a capacity for the foundation day celebrations, that would take place at the Nagpur headquarters on the occasion of Vijaydashmi.

Why can't economic criteria be used for quota, asks SC

Constitution Bench hearing petitions against amendment

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

What is "so principally, so fundamentally wrong" in singling out economic criterion for grant of reservation, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit asked on its third day of hearing petitions challenging the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced 10% quota for 'economically weaker sections' (EWS) of society.

"What is so principally, so fundamentally wrong in singling out an economic criterion for reservation? Is it cast in stone that they [beneficiaries of reservation] should belong to a homogenous group? Why cannot economic criterion be a ground for the state's affirmative action?" Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, on the Constitution Bench, asked advocate Shadan Farasat, who is appearing for a petitioner, on Thursday.

'Affirmative action'

Mr. Farasat replied that "affirmative action" could take form of a whole range of measures like money transfers of ₹6,000 to farmers.

"There are other affirmative actions which can address the problem of economy, but not necessarily reservation. Reservation was a way for reparation for the Backward Classes. It was the most assertive, the most aggressive way of affirmative action. Reservation was not meant to address any problem, but a specific problem – to bring Backward Classes to the mainstream by giving them access to education, government jobs," Mr. Farasat answered.

"The Amendment, by excluding the Backward Classes from the ambit of the EWS quota, betrays the actual intent to serve as a quota for middle class members of the forward castes," Mr. Farasat argued.

Prominent madrasa in U.P. surveyed by officials

Islamic institute was established in 1898

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

A team of officials from the Lucknow district administration conducted a survey at the famous Muslim seminary, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, in the capital on Thursday. The visit is in line with the orders of the State government to conduct surveys of all madrasas in Uttar Pradesh.

The team collected information as per a 12-point proforma, including the names and details of the organisations running the seminary, number of students, the source of funding, the year of establishment, course curriculum and facilities provided/available, among other details.

Officials during a survey at Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama on Thursday. •PTI

Established in 1898, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama is one of the oldest Islamic seminaries in India.

Mohammad Rabey Hasani Nadwi, the president of All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), one of the leading bodies of Muslims in India, is also the chancellor of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama.

Plea to raise retirement age of judges

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Advocates' bodies, including the Bar Council of India (BCI), have resolved to push forward with a demand to enhance the retirement age of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The BCI, its counterparts in the States, High Courts' Bar Associations intend to communicate their resolution to the Prime Minister and Union Law Minister. A press statement said the advocates' bodies unanimously came to the conclusion that amendments should be made to raise the age of HC judges' from 62 to 65 and that of SC judges' from the 65 to 67 years.

Pratap Pawar elected chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations

Srinivasan K. Swamy was elected Deputy Chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Sakal Media Private Ltd. chairman Pratap Pawar has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2022-2023.

Mr. Pawar, a Padma Shri awardee, is former president of The Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, Pune and he is on the Board of several organisations, a press release said on Thursday.

Chairman and Managing Director of R.K. Swamy Pvt Ltd, Srinivasan K. Swamy, who has been the Advertising Agency Member on the Council, was unanimously elected Deputy Chairman of the Bureau.

Besides 16 members who are representatives from publishers and advertisers were named members of the Bureau's Council of Management.

Sakal Papers Pvt. Ltd.'s Pratap G. Pawar (Chairman), Malayala Manorama Co. Ltd.'s Riyad Mathew (Honorary Secretary), The Bombay Samachar Pvt. Ltd.'s Hormusji N. Cama, Jagran Prakashan Ltd.'s Shailesh Gupta, HT Media Ltd.'s Praveen Someshwar, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.'s Mohit Jain, ABP Pvt. Ltd.'s Dhruba Mukherjee, Lokmat Media Pvt. Ltd.'s Karan Darda are publishers' representatives.

R.K. Swamy Pvt. Ltd.'s Srinivasan K Swamy (Deputy Chairman), Madison Communications Pvt. Ltd.'s Vikram Sakhuja (Honorary Treasurer), IPG Media Brands, Media Brands Pvt. Ltd.'s Shashidhar Sinha, Group M. Media India Private Ltd.'s Prasanth Kumar are representatives of advertising agencies.

United Breweries Ltd.'s Debabrata Mukherjee, ITC Ltd.'s Karunesh Bajaj, TVS Motor Company Ltd.'s Aniruddha Haldar and Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.'s Shashank Srivastava are representatives of advertisers, said the release.

Yatra started to break govt.'s silence: Congress

Why is govt. silent on inflation: Jairam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday attacked the Centre over the wholesale price-based inflation remaining in double digits for 17 months, and said the Bharat Jodo Yatra has started to break the government's silence on inflation.

The wholesale price-based inflation eased to a 11-month low of 12.41% in August, on softening in prices of manufactured and fuel products, even as food items remained expensive.

Although the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation declined for three consecutive months in August, it remained in double digit for 17 months beginning April last year. The inflation was 13.93% in July and 11.64% in August last year.

Jairam Ramesh

"Why is the Modi govt. silent on inflation?" Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet. "Bharat Jodo Yatra has been started to break this silence," Mr. Ramesh said.

'Breakfast scheme should not be counted as freebie, charity or gift'

Students learn comfortably and with enthusiasm once hunger is satiated

M.K. STALIN

After assuming the office of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by swearing "I, Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin" last year, I feel, Thursday's inauguration of the Breakfast Scheme for students of classes I to V, will remain in the golden pages of history and bring a positive change in the lives of my people.

We have enabled the schoolchildren to get their breakfast before attending their classes. The 'Athimoolam' (root cause) of the problems faced by the suppressed and marginalised people in the society must be identified and suitable remedies be provided. That is why, we have launched this scheme in Athimoolam Primary School, Madurai. It is a coincidence that the school is located in Keezh Anna Thoppu. I am proud to be one of Anna's (former CM Annadurai) younger brothers to have started this scheme on his birth anniversary. Exactly, 102 years ago, on September 16, one of the leaders of the Justice Party, Sir Pitti Thiagarayar passed a resolution to introduce mid-day meal scheme for children in Chennai Corporation. After a century, the breakfast programme is being launched.

Breakfast Schemes in schools have been implemented in many states of United States of America by the Department of Agriculture.

Nutritional boost: The mid-day meal scheme was started in Tamil Nadu in 1956. • FILE PHOTO

Such schemes have been introduced in European countries, particularly in France three years ago. Research shows that providing breakfast in schools improves the learning ability of students and increases attendance. Analysts say the demand for breakfast schemes has increased after the COVID-19 pandemic. I am ready to make any sacrifice to alleviate the poverty of the Tamil community and hunger of the children. Now I see the joy on the faces of children as they get their breakfast. I have no words to explain my happiness.

The Dravidian movement was established to ensure children belonging to poor and suppressed families should not be prevented from going to school. That is why the doctrine of Self-respect and Social Justice were coined. Communal reservation was brought as Thanthai Periyar (E.V. Ramasamy), Perarignar Anna (Annadurai) and Muthamizh Arignar (M. Karunanidhi) thought neither poverty nor caste should be a hindrance to one's education. I am overwhelmed that I, the follower of their path, have come to a position to fulfil their dreams and have implemented it.

No starvation

We believe the children of Tamil Nadu should not starve at any cost. 'Ayodhidasa Pandithar' (a Dalit icon) was the first to express the noble intention of providing food to schoolchildren along with education. In the early period of 1900, he sowed the seed for the idea of providing mid-day meals in the Olcott Memorial schools in Chennai region. A few months before India's independence, the meal scheme was discontinued by the British government citing financial crisis.

The mid-day meal scheme was started in 1956 when Perunthalaivar Kamarajar was the Chief Minister. Then Director of Public Education N.T.Sundaravadivelu, an ardent follower of Periyar, was the one who implemented it despite strong opposition from some officials.

To enhance this scheme, in 1971, Chief Minister Karunanidhi took charge of the Nutritional Meals Programme. He made it a grand movement by providing nutritional meals to children and pregnant mothers. He offered nutrient-rich bread to children (aged up to 3 years in municipalities around Chennai). In 1975, he launched an Integrated Nutritional Programme across the state.

'Makkal Tilagam' M.G. Ramachandran, as Chief Minister, took great efforts to expand it setting up more centres and allotted more funds. In 1989, Karunanidhi added egg in the nutritious meal; he also added chickpeas, green gram and boiled potatoes. In 2010, he extended eggs for five days a week and provided bananas to those who do not prefer eggs. Former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa Amma ordered the provision of variety rice during her regime.

When I attended a programme at a school in Chennai, I asked a few children if they'd had their breakfast. They replied 'no'. Later, when I consulted the authorities, they said that many children come to school skipping breakfast. I thought no child should attend classes with empty stomach. Under the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme, 1.14 lakh children from 1,545 schools will benefit at a cost of ₹12.75 per day / per child. I quote the 'cost' in administrative terminology. In fact it is not an expenditure; it is the duty of our government! We will progressively expand this project and take all steps expeditiously for its implementation to the fullest. Such schemes should not be counted as freebies, charity, gift or privilege. This is the bounden duty and responsibility of the government!

Students learn comfortably once hunger is satiated. They grasp easily and attend the school with enthusiasm. There will be a regular attendance in schools. Tamil Nadu will have a great educational ratio. If a person who benefits from this scheme occupies the highest position later, the benefits to the society remains immeasurable. For me, the schemes devised for education, medicine and the mitigation of hunger stand beyond criticism. These schemes form a face of governance. I request the people to measure the success of the government only with such schemes.

(M.K. Stalin is the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu)

Law Minister presses for fast track courts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has written to the Chief Justices of High Courts to accelerate the process of setting up fast track courts (FTC) and fast track special courts (FTSC) in their respective States to hear cases of heinous crimes against women, children and senior citizens.

In the letter, dated September 2, Mr. Rijiju noted that of the 1,800 FTCs recommended by the 14th Finance Commission, only 896 were functional as of July 31 and more than 13.18 lakh cases were pending in these courts.

He said that more than 3.28 lakh cases were pending in the FTSCs, which was "an alarming situation". His letter to the Chief Justices of High Courts follow a detailed review of the FTCs and FTSCs.

Modi in Samarkand for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting

Narendra Modi will meet Xi Jinping for the first time since the LAC stand-off

SUHASINI HAIDAR
SAMARKAND

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Samarkand late on Thursday evening, just ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Head of States meeting, where he will come face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since the April 2020 LAC stand-off, as well as Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Mr. Modi was the last of the leaders of the eight SCO members to arrive in Samarkand and missed both the pre-summit dinner hosted by Uzbekistan President Shovkat Mirziyoyev, and tree planting that all the leaders undertook, leading to speculation that Mr. Modi's late arrival was meant to avoid any inconvenient "photo-ops" while India's relationship with China and Pakistan remain tense.

Late arrival: Narendra Modi was the last of eight leaders of SCO member countries to arrive in Samarkand. • PTI

Mr. Modi's absence was felt particularly as other leaders held a number of bilateral meetings on Thursday, including a highly anticipated meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin for the first time since the war in Ukraine began.

On Friday, PM Modi will hold three bilateral meetings, with Mr. Putin, Mr. Mirziyoyev and Mr. Raisi, the MEA confirmed.

Mr. Xi held eight bilateral meetings in all and Mr. Putin met with six other leaders, including Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

The strong showing by Mr. Putin is expected to display confidence, and dispel Western narratives on challenges he faces in the Ukraine war. In addition, SCO countries attending the meeting are expected to express disapproval for "economic restrictions" or unilateral sanctions and plans for an "oil price cap" imposed by the U.S. and EU.

At a briefing on Thursday, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said that "India is not a member of the G7" when asked if India would join the oil price cap mechanism plan announced by G7 countries on September 2.

No separate domicile for a State, says SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

State reorganisation laws cannot curtail a citizen's right to reside and settle in any part of the country, the Supreme Court has held in a judgment.

A Bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and V. Ramasubramanian observed that "there is only one domicile, that is, the domicile of the country and there is no separate domicile for a State".

"Every part of every State is an integral and inseverable part of India," Justice Banerjee, who authored the judgment, wrote.

The Bench was dealing with an appeal filed by Telangana against a High Court decision upholding an Animal Husbandry department officer's claim to be posted in Telangana and not Andhra Pradesh, post the bifurcation of the State.

Former bureaucrats seek action against AAP

They send complaint to poll panel chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over 50 retired bureaucrats on Thursday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar seeking action against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleging that AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal had induced public servants to work for the party during a press conference in Gujarat on September 3.

The letter, sent by retired IAS officer M. Madan Gopal and signed by 56 former IAS, IFS and other services' officers, said the AAP leader's statements were in violation of Order 16A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 and asked for the AAP's recognition under the same to be withdrawn.

"A perusal of live stream of the press conference reveals that while addressing the press, Mr. Kejriwal repeatedly induced public servants of the State of Gujarat to work in tandem with the AAP to ensure its victory in the State elections that are to be conducted in the subsequent months. Mr. Kejriwal called upon public servants to aid the AAP in the upcoming State elections," the letter said.

"We emphatically state that through his comments, Mr. Kejriwal has attempted to persuade public servants to act in contravention with the principles and ethics by which they are governed and to act as agents for the AAP in the upcoming elections," the letter said.

The ex-bureaucrats noted that the Representation of the People Act, 1951 barred corrupt practices such as use of government machinery and undue influence to interfere with free exercise of electoral rights.

Rival Naga extremist groups refresh reconciliation pact

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Rival Naga extremist groups have refreshed a 13-year-old reconciliation treaty to "move forward" together for an honourable solution to the 'Naga political issue'.

The issue pertains to the peace deal signed between the Centre and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim or the NSCN (Isak-Muivah) and the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) comprising seven other organisations, including the factions of the Myanmar-based Khaplang group.

On September 14, the NSCN (I-M) represented by retired General V.S. Atem and the NNPGs represented by Alezo Venuh signed a document reaffirming the Covenant of Reconciliation of June 13, 2009, in the first meeting facilitated by the Forum for Naga Reconciliation after eight years.

The meeting was held at Chümoukedima near Dimapur, Nagaland's commercial hub.

The NSCN, formed in 1980, had violently split into the I-M and K factions in 1988.

"We renew to work together in the spirit of love and desist from all forms of armed violence and refrain from indulging in violence of words through print and social media among Naga political groups and the general public. From this time forth, in order to chart a path forward, we remain committed to peace and respect and to resolve outstanding issues among us," the September 14 declaration read.

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
Coimbatore - 641 003, Tamil Nadu, India. Ph: 091-422-6611201 Fax: 091-422-6611221, Email: registrar@tnau.ac.in Website: www.tnau.ac.in, www.agritech.tnau.ac.in
e - TENDER NOTICE
No.H/DB/DO/E-TENDER/CW/2022/CBE/PHLR/TPR/SEPTEMPER/2022
For and on behalf of the Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore e-tenders are invited online. All the details are available in the website www.tntenders.gov.in and tender notice is available in www.tnau.ac.in from 16.09.2022 at 10.00 AM., onwards. Further particulars may be obtained at the office of the Estate Officer, TNAU, Coimbatore on working day during office hours only.

1.	Construction of Farmers Hostel for KVK Pongalur in Tirupur District.	Rs. 84.00 Lakhs
2.	Construction of Students Hostel Building at Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	Rs.1720.00 Lakhs
3.	Construction of Administrative Building for KVK Pongalur in Tirupur District	Rs. 207.00 Lakhs

DIPR/ 4138 /TENDER/2022
ESTATE OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE ESTATE OFFICE, TNAU, Coimbatore

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 19 / 2022-23
email : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.4058, dt.09.09.2022

1.	No of the work	:- 2 number Building Works
2.	Estimated cost	:- Rs.199.52 Lakhs to Rs.669.34 Lakhs
3.	Period of completion	:- 9 (Nine) Calendar Months to 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
4.	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- From 11.00 Hours of 15.09.2022 to 16.00 Hours of 30.09.2022.
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:- 16.00 Hours of 30.09.2022
6.	Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:- 11.30 Hours on 01.10.2022
7.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

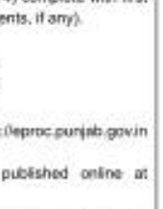
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
R-583: OIPR-34033/119027/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No - C-IIM-IFB-06/2019 (PT) No.34632 Dtd. 12.09.2022
3rd Corrigendum Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-06/2022-23
The following changes is made to the work invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-06/2022-23 vide letter No.24853 dtd.24.06.2022 as per Works Department, Government of Odisha O.M. No.12586 dtd.09.09.2022-Amendment to Rule-3 of Appendix-VIII of O.P.W.D. Code Volume-I.

Sl No	Name of work	Class of bidder as per DTCN	Modification Class of bidder as per Corrigendum
1.	Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Nudurpada-Kaliahata road from 0/00 km to 3/1/611 km in the district of Keonjhar under State Plan.	Super Class	Super Class / Special Class

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Chief Engineer, DPI & Roads, Odisha
R-582: OIPR-34111/11/0034/2223

Advt. No. 107/2022
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Technical)
in
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 15.00 hours on 21st November, 2022.
For details login to website http://www.pesb.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

The person shown in the above photograph is Christin C Joseph, Age-32/22, S/o Joseph, Choorakkulam House, Ammanchery Bhagam, Mannam Kara, Athirampuzha Village, Kottayam District, Kerala. A case has been registered against him in Ettumanoor Police station as Cr. 1131/2022 U/s 143, 145, 147, 148, 341, 308, 326, 294(B), 506(i), 323, 324, 427, r/w 149 IPC and enquiry is being conducted. If anyone get information regarding the above said person, please inform through the phone number provided below.
DySP KOTTAYAM - 9497990050, IPSHO ETTUMANOOR - 9497987075
SI ETTUMANOOR - 9497980318, ETTUMANOOR PS - 0481 2535517
RO NO 02281/F2/2022/I&PRD

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
NIT No.: DPD/Tender/HVDS/2022-23/WB/24 Date: 16.09.2022
The Chief Engineer, Distribution Project Department, WBSEDCL, Vidyut Bhavan (5th Floor: 'B'-Block), Salt Lake, Sector-II, Kolkata-700091 invites e-tender for 'Supply and installation of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) in semi-urban and rural areas in Darjeeling District (Hill area), Kalimpong District of West Bengal under West Bengal Electricity Distribution Grid Modernization Project'. Tender_ID: 2022_WBSED_403951_1; Pre-Bid Meeting: 23.09.2022 at 12:00 hrs.; Due date of Bid Submission: 02.11.2022 (up to 13:30 hrs.). For other details, please visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in ICA-T16471 (3) / 2022

LOOK OUT NOTICE

The person shown in the above photograph is Vineeth Sanjayan, Age - 35/22, S/o Sanjayan, Mankeezhepadi House, Jayanthi Junction, Aymanam Village, Kottayam District, Kerala. A case has been registered in Kottayam East Police Station as Cr. No. 1620/22 u/s 353,506(ii) r/w 34 IPC and Cr. No. 1624/22 u/s 323, 294(b), 506(ii) r/w 34 IPC and enquiry is being conducted. If anyone get information regarding the above said person, please inform through the phone number provided below.
DySP KOTTAYAM - 9497990050,
IPSHO KOTTAYAM EAST - 9497987071,
SI KOTTAYAM EAST PS - 9497980326,
KOTTAYAM EAST PS - 0481 2560333
RO/02264/F2/2022/I&PRD

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. Phone: +91-44285 54479, 2855 4480
Fax: +91-44285 53729 | Website: https://tidco.com
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327
NOTICE NO.TIDCO/TNDIC/DTIS03/2022-23 Date:16.09.2022
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO), a Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise involving in establishing and facilitating the large and medium Industries to stimulate industrial development in the State. TIDCO is the nodal agency for the implementation of Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in the state. The Government of India (GOI) has launched a new scheme called Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) for setting up of Greenfield Defence Testing Infrastructure (required for defence and aerospace related production), as a common facility through the Defence corridors along with private sector with Government assistance in Tamil Nadu.
In this context, TIDCO proposes for selection of industrial partners for "Development, Operation and Management of Defence Testing Infrastructure (DTI) for Electro Optics (EO) under DTIS". TIDCO invites interested firms to submit proposals for undertaking the services described in the Tender document.
Interested firms can download the Tender from the website https://tidco.com, www.tndefencecorridor.in & www.tenders.tn.gov.in. The Terms of Reference, Qualification Criteria and other terms and conditions are provided in the Tender Document.
The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-
1. Pre-bid meeting at 3:00 P.M on 23.09.2022 in TIDCO Office / online VC
2. Last date and time for submission of Proposals / Bids is on or before 3:00 P.M on 17.10.2022 through hard copy submission
3. Opening of Technical Proposals / Bids is at 3.30P.M on 17.10.2022 at TIDCO Office.
Managing Director
Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com, Website: https://tidco.com
DIPR/4137/Tender/2022

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
"Construction of PGIMER Satellite Centre at Una, Himachal Pradesh, a 300 Bedded Hospital with allied services and facilities"
Tender No.- HITES/PGIMER-UNA/2022
HLL Infra Tech Services Ltd. (HITES), B-14-A, Sector-62, Noida-201307, as Executing Agency of Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, invites online bids on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis through e-tendering from eligible contractors/firms in two bid system for the following work:-

Name and Description of work	Estimated cost in Rs. in Crore	Completion period of Work	Last date to fill/ upload the bid through e-tendering	Bid Security (EMD) amount (in Rs. in Lakhs)
Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of PGIMER Satellite Centre at Una, Himachal Pradesh, a 300 Bedded Hospital with allied services and facilities.	265.26 Crs.	24 Months	06.10.2022 Up to 11:30 Hrs.	Rs.275.26 Lakhs

The bid document shall be available online from 17.09.2022.
For submission & other tender details, please refer detailed NIT available on websites www.hllhites.com, e-Procurement System at NIC's (CPP Portal) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Corrigendum/amendments etc., if any, will be notified on these websites only and separate advertisement will not be made for the same.
HITES reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason or incurring any liability whatsoever.
Vice President (ID)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, Thiruvananthapuram invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tenders for the following work.
NIT No.29/EE-TVM/22-23. Name of work : Construction of Post Office Building at Kunnicode, Pathanamthitta Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 63,79,487/- (Civil: Rs. 58,37,468/-+ Elect: Rs.5,42,019/-) Earnest Money: Rs. 1,27,590/- Period of completion: 8 months
Last date and time of submission of bid: 23.09.2022 upto 11.00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website:www.pspcl.in
(Contact number 9646118721)
Tender Enquiry No. QW-304/PO-W Dated 15.09.2022
Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites E-tender of Repair of 3-phase, 50 cycles, outdoor type oil immersed, naturally cooled, stack core type construction, OWP Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers (Type Conventional) of capacity 63KVA, 200 KVA (w/o Tap changer) and 300 KVA (w/o Tap changer) with voltage ratio 11/0.433 KV conforming to ISS - 2026 (with latest amendments, if any) and 1180 part-1 (2014) complete with first filling of oil conforming to ISS: 335/1993 (with latest amendments, if any).
Quantity
63 KVA = 2500 Nos.
200 KVA = 200 Nos.
300 KVA = 10 Nos.
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 15.09.2022 from 02:00 P.M. onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum,if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C-355/22 76155/12/1112/2021/17096

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru – 560064.
Tender Notice No. RWF/5/006/2022-23 Dated: 15/09/2022
On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender from experienced OEMs / Manufacturers or authorized agents for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways e-portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tender documents and the Corrigendum to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the portal only.

Tender No.	Item Description
P2225731	Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of SCADA system for 3 phase 66KV & 11kV Substation Automation and Energy Management for 15 substations in Rail Wheel Factory, Pre bid conference on 29/09/2022 @15.00 hrs
Qty.: 01 set each	Tender Closing Date and Time: 16/11/22 14:00 Hrs.

Tender details can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Materials Manager

NIA arrests three more in heroin seizure case

It was seized in Mundra port last year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested three more accused in connection with the 3,000-kg heroin seizure case.

The accused have been identified as Rah Matullah, Ishwinder Singh and Jasbir Singh. The NIA probe has revealed that five consignments of the heroin-laden goods were imported into India through the same network from November 2020 to September 2021.

"Three such consignments of the semi-processed Talc stones ultimately reached a warehouse in Neb Sarai, Delhi, which was rented by the absconding accused, Najibullah Khalid, in the name of another Afghan national, Noorzahi Abdul Salam. The heroin was segregated from the concealing goods in this warehouse by Afghani experts and then sent for distribution in the market through a network of drug suppliers and peddlers," said the agency. The consignment was then shifted to another warehouse taken on rent allegedly by Shaheen, also an Aghan national who is a close associate of Najibullah, through Jasbir and Ishwinder.

"Ishwinder Singh, a known drug distributor, was in direct touch with Javed, an Afghanistan-based accused and a key aide of prime accused Hassan Daad. On Javed's directions, he and Jasbir Singh forged papers and rented a warehouse in Hamidpur village (Delhi), to where the semi-processed Talc was shifted from the Neb Sarai warehouse for further disposal," said an official.

The DRI had seized the heroin consignment at the Mundra port in September last year. The NIA took over the case in October 2021.

Six held for rape, murder of Dalit sisters

Hathras repeats, says Opposition blaming BJP govt.

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

Six persons have been arrested on charges of rape and murder of two minor Dalit sisters, who were found hanging from a tree in Lakhimpur Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference, Lakhimpur Kheri Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Suman said, "On Wednesday, the girls were coaxed and taken to the farm and both were sexually abused. Two accused have confessed to having forceful sexual relations with the girls."

The police have also registered a case under Sections 302, 323, 452, 376 and 3/4 of the POCSO Act.

In Lucknow, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said, "All the six accused namely Junaid, Suhail, Chhote, Hafizur Rahman, Karimuddin and Chhotu have been arrested. A 315 bore pistol, two live cartridges and an empty shell have been recovered from the main accused Junaid's son."

Heinous crime: Congress workers taking out a march in Prayagraj to protest the rape and murder of the siblings. • PTI

The family of the deceased, who were reluctant to perform the last rites, relented after getting assurance of financial help and other aid from the U.P. government. The post-mortem was videographed and the bodies were handed over to the family for the last rites.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also instructed officials to provide ₹25 lakh, a house and farming land to the victims family in the case. The administration has also agreed for the trial of the case in a fast-track court.

In the aftermath of the incident, Opposition parties trained their guns on the ruling BJP government alleging that the killing of the two Dalit girls was a repeat of '*Hathras ki beti*' episode.

It was on September 14, 2020, that a 19-year-old Dalit girl was gang-raped and assaulted in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh. She died later.

"The heartbreaking incident in Lakhimpur Kheri is in discussion everywhere, any type of condemnation for such heinous crime is less. In Uttar Pradesh, criminals are moving fearlessly because the priorities of the government are wrong," Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati wrote on Twitter.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said, "The killing is a heinous repeat of the '*Hathras ki beti*' murder. Police atrocities on Dalit sisters and daughters and poor are not stopping under the BJP rule. The police are lynching innocents by implicating them in false cases while those who commit crime are fearless."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at the BJP and said women's security cannot be expected from those facilitating the release of rapists."The kidnapping and murder of two minor Dalit sisters in Lakhimpur in broad daylight is a very disturbing incident. Women's safety cannot be expected from those facilitating the release of rapists and welcoming them," Mr. Gandhi said in a reference to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case being released last month under the Gujarat government's remission policy.

Lok Sabha member and Trinamool Congress leader Kakoli Dastidar questioned the 'silence' of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and criticised the law and order situation.

Expressing his condolence to the family of the victims, Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja tweeted, "This heinous crime exposes the hollowness of the Prime Minister's 'Nari Shakti' slogan. Even children are not safe in Yogi Adityanath's Hindu-Raj. Shameful!"

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

SC panel issues notice to U.P. govt.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following the rape and murder of two minor Dalit girls in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has issued a notice to authorities in the State and the district, seeking an Action Taken Report as soon as possible.

The commission on Thursday took *suo motu* cognisance of media reports on the deaths, and sent the notice to the Chief Secretary of the U.P. government, the State Director-General of Police, the District Magistrate of Lakhimpur Kheri, and the local police.

NCSC head Vijay Sampla took to Twitter and called the incident "very unfortunate", directing authorities to submit their report to the panel "immediately".

In the notice, NCSC said it had decided to independently probe the incident.

IN BRIEF

CBI takes over Sonali Phogat death case

NEW DELHI

The CBI has taken over the probe into the death of BJP leader and actor Sonali Phogat under mysterious circumstances in Goa last month. The move came after it was referred to the CBI through the Home Ministry on September 12. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had said that he would urge Home Minister Amit Shah, to transfer the case to the CBI.

Bengal education board chief held in SSC scam

KOLKATA

The CBI on Thursday arrested the former president of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education Kalyanmoy Ganguly in the School Service Commission recruitment scam. He was the president for almost 10 years and alleged irregularities took place during his tenure. He was questioned by the CBI on several occasions and was removed as president by the State government.

'Name new Parliament building after Ambedkar'

NEW DELHI

The All India Confederation of SC/ST organisations urged the Centre to name the new Parliament building after B.R. Ambedkar. In a statement here, former Lok Sabha MP Udit Raj, who is the national chairman of the organisation, sought to remind the PM about the demand first raised in a letter to him in December 2020. The organisation had also held a demonstration to emphasise the demand.

'Wearing hijab is an expression of self'

Kapil Sibal says Supreme Court should refer the case to a Constitution Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Hijab is a Muslim woman's self-expression. She cannot be compelled by the state to shed her persona at the gates of her college, senior advocate Kapil Sibal told the Supreme Court on Thursday.

"As Polonius said in '*Hamlet*', 'clothes maketh the man'. Wearing hijab is an expression of what you are, where you are from, who you are. It is an expression of the self," Mr. Sibal argued.

The senior counsel, appearing for a student-petitioner against Karnataka's ban on wearing hijab in classrooms, said the Supreme Court should refer the case to a Constitution Bench, which should in turn first decide whether "wearing a dress is self-expression, which lies both at the heart of the fundamental rights of privacy and freedom of expression". Hijab can be given the same protection as Sikh turbans and kirpans.

The petitioners were responding to a repeated question from the Bench as to "where is your right to wear a hijab to school".

"Privacy and dignity is attached to your person and not to the place you go to... A convict does not shed his fundamental rights at the gates of the prison...", advocate Shoeb Alam, for a student, said.

Mr. Alam said the state could not "barter" one fundamental right for the other.

"The state cannot say I will give you education and in return you surrender your privacy, lay it on my doorstep. The school or the state can have no say to what extent I should clothe myself to feel safe. It is a matter of choice, of my discretion," he contended.

> **The school or the state can have no say to what extent I should clothe myself to feel safe**
>
> SHOEB ALAM
> Advocate for student-petitioner

Religious identity

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said the hijab, has over the years, acquired a religious identity, protected under Article 25 of the Constitution.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves said the Karnataka High Court's observations overturning a Muslim student's right to attend classes in hijab were "hurtful".

"The HC said in schools there are no individual rights... The High Court said such 'qualified spaces' by their very nature repel the assertion of individual rights to the detriment of their general discipline and decorum. The use of such obscure terms like 'qualified spaces' conclude that constitutional and fundamental rights are somehow absent and are at a lower pedestal in schools, war rooms and defence camps," he submitted.

He said the HC judgment gave the impression that "order" in schools was somehow threatened by a girl wearing a hijab.

PM bats for a 'greener' automobile sector

Modi urges the industry to focus on self-sufficiency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called on the automobile sector to achieve self-sufficiency, while also stressing on the need to expedite innovations for greener alternatives.

The automobile industry, on its part, has set a target of becoming near 100% self-reliant in the entire manufacturing value chain by 2047, while also becoming one of the two largest producers in every segment of automobiles in the world. The industry, however, added that a long-term regulatory roadmap is among the key enablers that can be helpful in better planning of investments, technologies and product development.

Narendra Modi

"Our government has adopted an enabling approach towards creating a global manufacturing hub by encouraging manufacturers to 'Make in India'. 'Amrit Kaal' is an opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency in every sector and the automobile sector is no exception," the Prime Minister said in his message to the industry at the 62nd Annual Convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

Need of the hour

Mr. Modi added that it is a need of the hour that the automobile industry's innovation for greener alternatives attains a new momentum, to ensure the protection and conservation of environment, as well as help in making India self-reliant.

Speaking at the event, SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa said that currently the industry is going through a unique phase.

"Some segments have started to see recovery after the pandemic, while a few are still struggling. For example, mass segments like entry-level cars and two-wheelers are facing huge reduction in demand owing to significant increase in the acquisition cost," he said.

Centre cites law to deny seats to Ukraine-returnees

Health Ministry files affidavit in SC on medical students' plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday told the Supreme Court that the law does not allow undergraduate medical students, who fled the "war-like situation" in Ukraine, to be accommodated in Indian medical colleges.

The affidavit from the Health Ministry was in response to petitions filed by students, in their first to fourth year of undergraduate medical studies in Ukraine, seeking transfer to colleges in India to continue their semesters here.

A group of students, who were studying in Bukovinian State Medical University in Ukraine, arriving in Chennai. • FILE PHOTO

"So far as such students are concerned, there are no provisions either under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1956 or the National Medical Commission Act 2019 as well as the Regulations to accommodate or transfer medical students from any foreign medical institutes/colleges to Indian medical colleges. Till now, no permission has been given by the National Medical Commission to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute/university," the Health Ministry said.

Public notice

However, the Centre said, in order to "aid and assist such returnee students who could not complete their MBBS courses in Ukraine, the National Medical Commission, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, has issued a public notice on September 9 indicating that the National Medical Commission would accept completion of their remaining course in other foreign countries (with the approval of parent university in Ukraine)".

"Further, after such completion, the certificate of course completion/degree is expected to be issued by the parent institutions in Ukraine," the Ministry affidavit said. The affidavit clarified that this global "academic mobility programme" mentioned in the September 9 public notice cannot be interpreted to mean accommodation of the Ukraine-returned students in Indian colleges.

Two reasons

"The extant regulations in India do not permit migration of students from foreign universities to India. The public notice cannot be used as a back door entry into Indian colleges offering undergraduate courses," the government explained.

The government said these students had left for foreign universities for two reasons, poor marks in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and affordability of medical education in foreign countries. "In case these students with poor merit are allowed admission to premier medical colleges in India by default, there may be several litigations from desirous candidates who could not get seats in these colleges and have taken admission in either lesser known colleges or have been deprived of a seat in medical colleges," the Ministry affidavit reasoned.

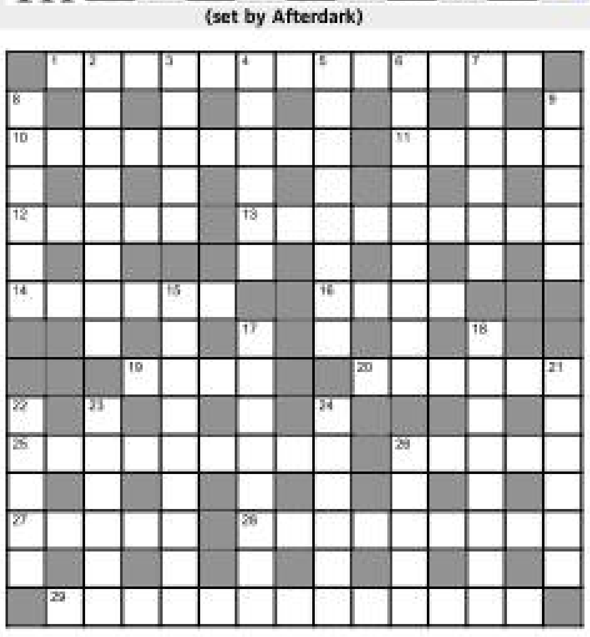
Besides, these students, if admitted in Indian colleges, would again face the problem of affordability.

TH CROSSWORD + 13662

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN



Across

1 Ended something special? Let's help (5,3,5)
10 Darling, sweep Buzzer's storeroom (9)
11 Brave lady, say (5)
12 Abruptly throw board, you finally have a change of heart (5)
13 Only the addled will go through training material (9)
14 Smoke at corner? It's closed (6)
16 Second class material... (4)
19 ...available for 0 pound (4)
20 Perhaps signs last letter before cricket match at a college (6)
25 Shut nine schools to redesign as a military shelter (6,3)
26 Tiny woman reportedly with ease reached New York (5)
27 Computer Graphic Interface used to portray golden dog (5)
28 Primarily silly troll at party, but somehow shows modesty (4-5)
29 Actor is stone-cold, wait, will warm up (5,8)

Down

2 Give up on boy, say starting to cheat sweetheart (8)
3 Boat with king and a beast... (5)
4 ...on wrong route crossing Portugal with company (6)
5 Faulty mobiles with some mishandling can lead to occlusion (8)
6 Observance of formalities in dirty politic? UN should interfere (9)
7 Story about Boris's dalliances in the beginning with member of an English political party (3-3)
8 Produces copies after shop closes halfway (6)
9 Strong people are vehement to dismiss veteran (2-3)
15 Lion Peter slaughtered to satiation (9)
17 Cornered by bunch as terrible as immoral (8)
18 A musical term for routine arrangement without tempo (8)
21 Animal is shy to mingle with some enthusiasm (6)
22 Type of shirt woven in the middle kept by American farm labour (colourless) (1,4)
23 Wrong to dismiss youth leader, in the beginning lad was angelic (6)
24 Stops the giant in ship (6)
26 Agree to take two wives, on either side with a dowager (5)

SUDOKU

3		1		2		4		
5				3	4			6
		9		1			3	
	9							7
		5	6		9	3		
1							2	
	1			9		2		
8			5	7				4
		4		6		7		1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13661

S	H	A	K	E	U	P	S		W	A	N	T	O	N
T		P		N		I		M		N		W		O
A	W	A	I	T		A	D	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
M		R		E		N		L		R		C		S
E	X	T	E	N	S	I	V	E		O	B	E	S	E
N		M		T		S		S		L				N
	R	E	H	E	A	T		T	R	I	C	E	P	S
P		N		C						C		L		E
O	U	T	P	O	S	T		G	A	S	K	E	T	
W				R		O		L		T		V		R
E	M	B	E	D		S	H	A	R	E	W	A	R	E
R		O		I		S		D		H		T		C
C	U	R	V	A	T	U	R	E		O	X	I	D	E
U		O		L		P		Y		I		O		S
T	U	N	N	E	L		D	E	A	D	E	N	D	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	4	8	9	5	6	1	2
5	1	2	3	4	6	9	8	7
9	8	6	2	7	1	4	3	5
8	2	9	5	1	4	7	6	3
4	6	7	9	2	3	8	5	1
3	5	1	7	6	8	2	9	4
6	9	3	4	5	2	1	7	8
1	4	8	6	3	7	5	2	9
2	7	5	1	8	9	3	4	6

FAITH

Committed to dharma

The Supreme Lord is the source of both evil and good as the purana stories in the Bhagavata Purana show. From time immemorial good and bad have coexisted in creation, and this is symbolically represented by the fact that Kashyapa is the father of both the devas, the sons of Aditi, and the asuras born of Diti. The Lord is the very embodiment of dharma and He sustains the entire creation. So, when evil dominates, He takes avatars to quell the asuras and restore the balance. Likewise in the Devi Mahatmya it is Goddess Shakti who intervenes to put an end to the atrocities perpetrated by the asuras such as Madhu and Kaitabha, Mahishasura, Sumbha and Nisumbha and so on, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse.

The purana stories also reinforce another important truth that each one's essential nature is determined by his deeds and not by factors such as lineage, scholarship, wealth, etc. The asura clan is not totally bad for there are great bhaktas and good natured characters such as Prahlada and Bali. Also, there are instances where the Devas are not always good and at times err on the side of dharma. Once, when they became blind with conceit at their victory over the asuras, God taught them a lesson by making Bali overpower them. But, when the devas sought His help to save them from Bali's dominance, Vishnu helped them and also rid Bali of his pride in his possessions. Also, there are factors such as the cause and effect principle and the ebb and flow of Time in the lives of beings that give rise to favourable or unfavourable situations. This makes it appear as if God is partial to the devas rather than their opponents. But the truth is that God has no personal enmity towards anyone and His aim is to protect the good against the wicked forces.

Putin, Xi hail 'great power' ties at SCO talks

Russian leader condemns 'U.S. provocation on Taiwan'; China seeks to 'inject stability' into the world

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAMARKAND

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met for their first face-to-face talks since the start of the conflict in Ukraine on Thursday, hailing their strategic ties in defiance of the West.

The two leaders met at a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the Uzbek city of Samarkand, a stop on the ancient Silk Road.

The meeting was part of Mr. Xi's first trip abroad since the early days of the pandemic and for Mr. Putin a chance to show Russia has not been fully isolated despite Western efforts.

"China is willing to make efforts with Russia to assume the role of great powers, and play a guiding role to inject stability and positive energy into a world rocked by social turmoil," Mr. Xi told Mr. Putin. Mr. Putin took a clear broadside at the U.S., which has been leading efforts to support Ukraine and impose sanctions on Russia.

Enhanced role: Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand on Thursday. • AP

Putin thanks Xi

"Attempts to create a unipolar world have recently acquired an absolutely ugly form and are completely unacceptable," Mr. Putin said.

"We highly appreciate the balanced position of our Chinese friends in connection with the Ukrainian crisis," Mr. Putin told Mr. Xi, while reiterating Moscow's backing for China on Taiwan.

"We adhere to the principle of one China. We condemn the provocation of the U.S. and their satellites in the Taiwan Strait," the Russian President said, after a U.S. Senate committee on Wednesday took the first step towards Washington directly providing billions of dollars in military aid to Taiwan.

It was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since Mr. Putin saw Mr. Xi in early February for the Winter Olympic Games, days before the Russian leader launched the military offensive in Ukraine.

'Alternative' to West

The Kremlin has touted the SCO summit in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand as showing there is an "alternative" to Western dominated international institutions.

The SCO – made up of China, India, Pakistan, Russia and the ex-Soviet Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – was set up in 2001 as a political, economic and security organisation to rival Western institutions.

The leaders of those countries were to attend, as well as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Mr. Putin met with the leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan earlier on Thursday, as well as with Mr. Raisi and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

With both Mr. Raisi and Mr. Sharif, he said ties were "developing positively", while the Iranian leader told Mr. Putin that U.S.-backed sanctions on both countries would only make their relationship "stronger".

"The Americans think whichever country they impose sanctions on, it will be stopped, their perception is a wrong one," Mr. Raisi said.

For Mr. Putin the summit comes at an important time, as his forces face major battlefield setbacks in Ukraine and amid a continued Western push to make Russia an international pariah.

For Mr. Xi, it is an opportunity to shore up his credentials as a global statesman ahead of a pivotal congress of the ruling Communist Party in October.

Sweden's right-wing in talks to form govt. with far-right

Ulf Kristersson holds meetings with coalition partners

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STOCKHOLM

Sweden's incoming leader got to work on Thursday on the thorny task of building a government supported for the first time by the far-right, a day after securing a slim election victory.

Conservative Moderates chief Ulf Kristersson was expected to be formally tasked sometime next week with forming a government after Social Democratic Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson on Thursday tendered her resignation.

While the far-right Swe-

Ulf Kristersson

den Democrats became the biggest party on the right with 20% of votes, observers said it was unlikely the anti-immigration and nationalist party would be given Cabinet seats due to divisions in the right-wing bloc.

The small Liberal party has said it would withdraw its support for Mr. Kristersson – which would leave him without a majority – if he includes the far-right in the government.

With 176 seats – 73 of them going to the far-right Sweden Democrats – the four-party coalition will have a slim majority over Ms. Andersson's left bloc, which won 173.

Sweden Democrats leader Jimmie Akesson said on election night that obtaining Cabinet posts was the party's "goal", but he has also made it clear that he was ready to present a long list of demands in exchange for the party's informal support outside government.

Speaker of Parliament Andreas Norlen said on Thursday he would summon party leaders for talks next week before assigning Mr. Kristersson the task of building a government, opening a period of formal negotiations.

But Mr. Kristersson, 58, has already rolled up his sleeves and held meetings with the leaders of the Christian Democrats, Sweden Democrats and Liberals.

"I now begin the work of forming a new and strong government," Mr. Kristersson said on Wednesday evening in a post on Facebook after final vote counting gave his side the win.

"Now we will restore order in Sweden!"

Migrants dropped off near Harris' residence

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Two buses of migrants from the U.S.-Mexico border were dropped off near Vice-President Kamala Harris' home in residential Washington on Thursday morning in the bitter political battle over the Biden administration's immigration policies.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has been busing migrants out of Texas to cities with Democratic Mayors as part of a political strategy this year because he claims there are too many arrivals over the border to his state. Arizona Governor Doug Ducey also has adopted this policy, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis also got in on the act recently. It was first dreamed up by former President Donald Trump.

Mr. Abbott tweeted that he'd sent the buses that arrived on Thursday: "We're sending migrants to her backyard to call on the Biden Administration to do its job & secure the border."

About two dozen men and women stood outside the U.S. Naval Observatory at dawn, clutching plastic bags carrying their belongings, before moving to a nearby church. Ms. Harris' office had no immediate comment.

Armenia-Azerbaijan border clashes toll rises to over 170

Truce holding, no fresh violence reported overnight: Yerevan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YEREVAN

Azerbaijan said on Thursday that 71 of its troops had died in border clashes with Armenia over the last two days in the worst fighting since 2020.

Yerevan said a ceasefire was holding on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, with no fresh violence reported overnight.

The earlier death toll given by Azerbaijan was 50.

Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry published a list of 71 servicemen killed in clashes between the historic rivals since Tuesday while Yerevan said 105 of its troops were killed.

The clashes ended "thanks to the international involvement" overnight on Thursday, Armenia's security council said, after earlier failed attempts from Russia to broker a truce.

The European Union welcomed the ceasefire, which it said was "being respected so far."

"The EU remains strongly involved in the normalisation process between Armenia and Azerbaijan," Peter Stano, the bloc's spokesman for foreign affairs and security policy, said in a statement.

EU Special Representative, Toivo Klaar, was holding consultations in Baku on Wednesday and in Yerevan on Thursday, he said.

Baku and Yerevan have traded accusations of initiating the violence, which saw hundreds of Armenian civilians flee their homes.

U.S. rail strike averted with 'tentative' deal

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Major U.S. railroads and unions secured a tentative deal after intense talks brokered by the Biden administration to avert a rail shutdown that could have hit food and fuel supplies across the country. President Joe Biden announced the deal on Thursday, calling it "a win for tens of thousands of rail workers."

A rail shutdown could freeze almost 30% of U.S. cargo shipments by weight, stoke inflation, cost the U.S. economy as much as $2 billion per day.

Hungary no longer a full democracy: EU resolution

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

Hungary is no longer a "full democracy" and the EU needs to do everything to bring it back into line with European values, the European Parliament said on Thursday.

MEPs voted 433 in favour, 123 against, to now describe Hungary – ruled by populist Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who maintains close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin – "a hybrid regime of electoral autocracy" in "serious breach" of EU democratic norms.

The vote was largely symbolic and does not change the course of the Union's decision making, which requires unanimity of all 27 member states – including Hungary – to adopt major issues, such as sanctions on Russia.

With their vote, the EU lawmakers roundly adopted a parliamentary resolution that said Hungary has been backsliding on democratic and fundamental rights since 2018 through the "deliberate and systematic efforts of the Hungarian government".

The report said lack of action by EU institutions had exacerbated the degradation.

THE HINDU GROUP

Can a newspaper's *reporting ethos and design philosophy* have something in common?

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THE HINDU

Revealing on September 20, 2022

MARKET WATCH

	15-09-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,934	-0.68
US Dollar	79.71	-0.23
Gold	50,290	-0.64
Brent oil	91.18	-4.01

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	968.55	20.70
Apollo Hosp	4341.85	-85.75
Asian Paints	3395.40	-43.55
Axis Bank	790.00	-13.05
Bajaj Auto	3768.00	-82.25
Bajaj Finserv	1772.20	-33.15
Bajaj Finance	7386.30	-97.15
Bharti Airtel	785.10	1.75
BPCL	331.40	-4.75
Britannia Ind	3721.55	-25.45
Cipla	1033.30	-26.65
Coal India	234.25	2.10
Divis Lab	3605.45	-63.10
Dr Reddys Lab	4169.00	-45.15
Eicher Motors	3622.25	80.45
Grasim Ind	1808.30	25.50
HCL Tech	919.90	-12.10
HDFC	2459.40	6.05
HDFC Bank	1520.70	-7.95
HDFC Life	566.75	-9.60
Hero MotoCorp	2790.30	-61.20
Hindalco	424.40	-17.60
Hind Unilever	2560.40	-11.00
ICICI Bank	917.60	-0.50
Indusind Bank	1195.85	-19.90
Infosys	1432.80	-42.60
ITC	334.10	-1.35
JSW Steel	689.65	-3.20
Kotak Bank	1934.15	-20.55
L&T	1957.50	3.60
M&M	1297.05	-1.00
Maruti Suzuki	9209.75	242.55
Nestle India Ltd.	19009.00	-99.75
NTPC	175.10	2.75
ONGC	132.60	-0.60
PowerGrid Corp	237.60	5.05
Reliance Ind	2562.70	-25.65
SBI Life	1295.00	-8.30
State Bank	572.15	0.40
Shree Cement	23912.60	-218.75
Sun Pharma	874.30	-9.45
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	837.40	-2.85
Tata Motors	447.25	-2.95
Tata Steel	107.00	-2.15
TCS	3104.35	-16.05
Tech Mahindra	1083.00	-31.70
Titan	2656.15	-44.45
UltraTech Cement	6790.05	-85.70
UPL	742.60	-5.70
Wipro	415.05	-1.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.50	79.82
Euro	79.27	79.59
British Pound	91.37	91.75
Japanese Yen (100)	55.39	55.61
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.41
Swiss Franc	83.08	83.42
Singapore Dollar	56.44	56.68
Canadian Dollar	60.29	60.53
Malaysian Ringitt	17.53	17.61
Australian Dollar	53.45	53.72

Source:Indian Bank

Veranda to raise ₹300 cr.

CHENNAI

Veranda Learning Solutions Ltd., which is close to making a couple of acquisitions, has sought shareholders' nod to raise ₹300 crore.

Fitch cuts FY23 India growth outlook to 7% on high inflation

Ratings firm flags global slowdown, expects RBI to continue with rate increases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Thursday cut its forecast for India's economic growth in 2022-23 to 7%, from 7.8% projected earlier, citing the global slowdown, high inflation and the RBI's monetary actions to tame it as reasons. It also pared its 2023-24 outlook to 6.7%, from 7.4%.

Fitch also slashed its 2022 global growth forecast to 2.4%, from 2.9%, in view of the European gas crisis, high inflation and a sharp acceleration in the pace of global monetary policy tightening that was taking a heavy toll on economic prospects.

"The eurozone and U.K. are now expected to enter recession later this year and Fitch forecasts that the U.S. will suffer a mild recession in mid-2023," the ratings firm said in its latest global economic outlook.

Mixed picture: While manufacturing PMI remained upbeat, inflation and the policy response may slow growth. • AFP

While India's economy registered 13.5% growth in the April to June quarter, the ratings agency said this was below its expectation of an 18.5% surge. "Seasonally adjusted estimates show a 3.3% quarter-on-quarter decline though this seems to be at odds with high-frequency indicators," it noted, citing improvements in PMI readings and industrial growth data through the quarter.

"Manufacturing PMI... also recovered strongly in July and remained upbeat in August, with the RBI saying that "domestic activity remains resilient." Nevertheless, we expect the economy to slow given the global economic backdrop, elevated inflation and tighter monetary policy," the ratings agency said.

Fitch expects the RBI to further tighten the policy rate to 5.9%, from 5.4% currently, by the end of the year.

Monitor financial sector risks for timely action, urges FM

FSDC reviews early warning signals, Centre's preparedness

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stressed the need for the government and regulators to monitor financial sector risks and market developments on a continuous basis and take timely actions to mitigate vulnerabilities at a meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on Thursday.

Nirmala Sitharaman

Among the systemic issues deliberated upon by the council, chaired by Ms. Sitharaman, were early warning indicators for the economy and the administration's preparedness to deal with them. The council, which includes all financial sector regulators and top officials of the Finance Ministry, met in Mumbai.

"The council also took note of the preparation in respect of financial sector issues to be taken up during India's G20 Presidency in 2023," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Improving the efficiency of the existing financial and credit information systems, issues of governance and management in Systemically Important Financial Institutions including Financial Market Infrastructures, and the strengthening of the cybersecurity framework in the financial sector were also discussed.

"A common KYC for all financial services, update and next steps on account aggregators, issues relating to power sector financing were also discussed along with the need for utilisation of the services of registered valuers by all government departments," it added.

Reliance Retail eyes debt limit of ₹1 lakh cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Reliance Retail Ltd. is set to seek shareholders' approval for doubling its borrowing limit to ₹1 lakh crore.

The proposal will be put up during the firm's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 30.

In September last, shareholders had approved borrowings not exceeding ₹50,000 crore. At its meeting on May 5 this year, the company's board had proposed to increase the borrowing limit to "a sum not exceeding ₹1,00,000 crore". As on March 31, Reliance Retail's gross debt was at ₹40,756.44 crore.

At parent RIL's AGM last month, it was announced that Reliance Retail would enter the FMCG segment.

AI aims to raise market share to 30% in 5 years

Unveils transformation plan Vihaan.AI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Air India (AI) on Thursday unveiled its future roadmap as part of which it plans to raise its domestic market share to 30% in the next five years and grow business on international routes.

Tata-owned AI would also strive for 'excellence' and 'scale' to reclaim its status as a global industry leader.

The airline's transformation plan named Vihaan.AI, which in Sanskrit signifies the dawn of a new era, identifies objectives for the carrier over the next five years.

The strategy has been announced almost nine months after Tata Sons bought AI from the government, and three months after new CEO Campbell Wilson joined the airline.

"Over the next five years, Air India will strive to increase its market share to at least 30% in the domestic market while significantly growing the international routes from the present market share," AI said in a statement.

"The plan is aimed at putting Air India on a path to sustained growth, profitability and market leadership,"

'International air-passenger traffic steady'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

International passenger traffic for Indian airlines may have declined since June with the end of the peak travel season, but continues to be robust compared with the levels witnessed in the same month pre-COVID, according to rating agency ICRA.

In August, airlines ferried 26.1 lakh or 32% more passengers than the 19.8 lakh recorded in August 2019, ICRA said.

In July, this figure was 23 lakh international passengers which was 25% more than July 2019. June recorded the highest number of international passengers this year at 44 lakh, which was 79% of pre-COVID levels, according to ICRA.

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank recovers after weak debut

Ends at ₹509.65 on NSE vs ₹495 open

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Shares of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) recovered their poise after making a weak debut on Thursday to close trading at ₹508.45 and ₹509.65 on the BSE and NSE, respectively.

TMB shares opened at a 3% discount on the NSE, at ₹495, against the issue price of ₹510. Intraday, the shares hit highs of ₹519 on the BSE and ₹515 on the NSE.

The lender, which had tapped the capital market during the second week of September at a price band of ₹500-525, eventually raised ₹808 crore.

"My preliminary view is that it is a good [price], given the market condition of the day," said MD & CEO S. Krishnan. "Basically, it all depends on the demand and supply, I expect a further pickup in the days to come," he added.

My view is that it is a good [price] given the market condition

S. KRISHNAN,
MD & CEO, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

Later, talking to journalists, Mr. Krishnan said that his immediate goal was to make TMB a strong mid-size bank in the industry by offering the best of services to customers through phygital (physical and digital) mode, with a focus on retail, agriculture and MSME (RAM) sectors, and by expanding the lender's footprint based on the potential.

Tata Motors sees 20% of PV sales from EVs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tata Motors expects 20% of its total passenger vehicle (PV) sales in the domestic market to come from electric vehicles (EVs) in the next three years, a senior company official said.

The firm, which has electric models such as Nexon EV and Tigor EV, expects to touch the 50,000-units mark in total EV sales this year.

"Right now, it (EV expansion) is between 8-8.5%," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility MD Shailesh Chandra s told reporters during an event.

On how the firm sees EV expansion in three years, he said, "I see it gravitating towards 20%."

SPORT

Ruud keen to put Norway ahead against India

I am not tired yet and ready for this weekend, says the two-time Grand Slam finalist

DAVIS CUP

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Two-time Grand Slam finalist Casper Ruud has the "dream" to see Norway compete in the "top division" of Davis Cup, and assured that he would try his best along with the team to make the dream come true, "at least once in our career".

Addressing the media after his name was drawn by Anil Khanna, member of the Board of Directors of the ITF, to play the Indian No. 2 Prajnesh Gunneswaran in the opening rubber on Friday, Ruud said that despite the busy schedule he was keen to support the team.

"Davis Cup has a lot of history. The home tie makes it easier for me to play. I will try to continue to play in future," said Ruud, fresh from the US Open final.

Eventful summer

"I am not tired yet. It has been an eventful summer. The sight of fresh mountains gives me a lot of energy. Am ready for this weekend," Ruud announced.

Looking at the different playing conditions at the Hakons Hall indoor arena in Lillehammer, Ruud said that the hard court, built on top of wooden flooring, was playing "medium-fast", as it had fresh paint, but he "felt comfortable".

Raring to go: Ruud, right, and his teammates address the media. • OLYMPIAPARKEN V/ALEXANDER HENNINGSEN

India captain Rohit Rajpal said that he would have preferred Ramkumar Ramanathan playing the first rubber, but added that it was fine.

While India will field Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni for the doubles rubber, the Norwegians will field their two main players, world No. 2 Ruud and the 325th-ranked Viktor Durasovic.

India kept Sumit Nagal in the team and put Sasikumar Mukund as the reserve, from the six-member squad.

The first of the two singles matches will start at 9.30 p.m. IST on Friday.

The second day's play, with doubles as the first match, will open at 5.30 p.m. IST on Saturday.

The nominations can be changed if the teams so desire after the first day's play.

Friday's action

On the opening day, Casper Ruud will take on Prajnesh Gunneswaran in the first singles, followed by Viktor Durasovic versus Ramkumar Ramanathan in the second.

A rare achievement by Vinesh

WRESTLING

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Vinesh Phogat has firmly established herself in the pantheon of great Indian wrestlers by achieving another first.

After securing her maiden World championships medal, a bronze, in Nur-Sultan in 2019, Vinesh claimed another bronze medal in 53kg in Belgrade on Wednesday and became the first Indian woman wrestler to win two medals at the elite event.

While Vinesh beat World and Olympic medallist Sofia Mattsson when she won her first Worlds medal, she displayed exemplary grit to thwart a strong challenge from another Swedish young

Vinesh.
• TWITTER/@WRESTLEBELGRADE

European champion Jonna Malmgren in the bronze medal match, with Sofia this time looking on as coach.

Vinesh's Belgrade show was a story of extraordinary comeback in itself.

She lost to Mongolian Khulan Batkhuyag in the first round, but grabbed a second chance. Her vast experience came in handy as she executed her counter-attacks to perfection to beat the tough Malmgren with an 8-0 verdict.

Vinesh – who had a forgettable outing on her second Olympics appearance in Tokyo – overcame a spell of depression, several health issues and a ban (on disciplinary grounds) to fight back like a true champion.

She won her third consecutive Commonwealth Games title and second Worlds medal within a year.

Whether Vinesh competes in the National Games or not, the 28-year-old, an Asian Games gold medallist, will take heart from her two big medals this year to launch her preparations for the Asiad next year and the Olympics in 2024.

Bengaluru sneaks past Hyderabad

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Bengaluru FC made it to the final of the 131st Durand Cup as it got the better of the ISL champion Hyderabad FC by a solitary goal in the second semifinal at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Thursday. The match-winner came through an own-goal from Hyderabad's Spanish defender Odei Zabala who miscued a clearance into his own net.

Bengaluru will meet Mumbai City FC in the title clash on Sunday.

The goal came at the half-hour mark when a move by Jayesh Rane and Prabir Das saw the latter send a sharp cross to the onrushing Roy Krishna. The Fijian forward failed to connect, but the ball touched the outstretched legs of Odei to roll in.

Rock solid: Gurpreet came up with a series of saves to deny Hyderabad. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hyderabad enjoyed more ball possession and also created more opportunities, but its attackers failed to get past Gurpreet Singh Sandhu in the Bengaluru goal. Gurpreet made at least four saves to thwart Hyderabad.

Huderabad had its best chance in the eighth minute when a mispass from Sunil Chhetri saw winger Halicharan Narzary release Bartholomew Ogbece unmarked inside the Bengaluru box. The Nigerian's attempt was, however, parried by Sandhu.

Bengaluru did well to preserve its one-goal lead for the rest of the contest, its defenders staying solid and making the most of the Hyderabad strikers' tentative approach inside the box.

The result (semifinal): Bengaluru FC 1 (Odei Zabala 30-og) bt Hyderabad FC 0.

India thumps Nepal, emerges champion

SAFF U-17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Defending champion India produced a clinical performance to retain its SAFF under-17 championship crown, crushing 10-man Nepal 4-0 in the final in Colombo on Wednesday.

Boby Singh, Korou Singh, captain Vanlalpeka Guite, and Aman were the scorers.

In the group league, Nepal had beaten India 3-1.

In the final, India took complete charge of proceedings right from the word go.

India went into the lead in the 18th minute through Boby, who headed in after a good piece of play between Ricky Meetei and Guite.

Guite was in the thick of things again 12 minutes later, getting another assist to his name, as he played a through to Korou Singh, who just had to round the 'keeper and slot home.

Sweet victory: India avenged a group-stage defeat in style, drubbing Nepal in the summit clash. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nepal was roused into action by the second goal, but the Indian midfield was able to frustrate all efforts.

The frustration came to the surface in the 39th minute, when Nepal captain Prashant Laksam elbowed Danny Laishram in the back and was red-carded.

With the advantage, India saw out the rest of the first half.

Guite netted a goal of his own in the 63rd minute, when his cross from the left swerved into the top corner, handing India a 3-0 lead.

Nepal's second-half substitute Dhan Singh did create a couple of chances for his side in the closing minutes, but the one-man advantage meant that India was able to hold its own.

At the other end, second-half substitute Aman netted India's fourth goal, after he was set through behind the Nepal defence.

India skipper Guite was named Player-of-the-Tournament, while goalkeeper Sahil was chosen best goalkeeper.

Anand loses

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Raunak Sadhwani and Nihal Sarin entered the second round but Viswanathan Anand lost his way against Russian Pavel Ponkratov in the Chess.com Global championship online rapid chess.

Following Nihal's victory over Rauf Mamedov (Azerbaijan) in the Armageddon game for a 3-2 verdict on Wednesday, Raunak ousted the 2005 World champion Veselin Topalov 2.5-0.5 on Thursday.

After making amends for losing the second game by taking the fourth, Anand cracked in the tie-deciding Armageddon game. His bid to play with seven minutes on the clock, against Ponkratov's 15, backfired. Ponkratov's savage attack on the castled black king ended the game in 36 moves.

Federer calls time on a magical career

The Swiss maestro, beset with injuries of late, to retire after the Laver Cup next week

REUTERS
LONDON

Roger Federer, regarded by many as the greatest male player to wield a tennis racquet and who took the sport to new levels during a career spanning more than two decades, has announced he will retire after next week's Laver Cup in London.

The 41-year-old, who won 20 Grand Slam singles titles and re-defined a sport with his artistry and grace, broke the news tennis fans across the world have feared in a lengthy statement on Thursday.

A knee injury meant he has not played a match since losing at last year's Wimbledon although many still believed he could come back for one last golden farewell. But he said his age had finally caught up with him.

"As many of you know, the past three years have presented me with challenges in the form of injuries and surgeries," Federer said in an emotional statement posted on Instagram.

"I've worked hard to return to full competitive form. But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message to me lately has been clear. I am 41 years old."

Generous treatment

"I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years. Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognise when it's time to end my competitive career. The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event. I will play more tennis in the future, of course, but just not in Grand Slams or on the tour."

Federer, who dominated men's tennis for several years after winning his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, has been troubled by injuries in recent years.

He has undergone three knee operations in the last two years and his last competitive match was a quarter-final defeat against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz at the 2021 Wimbledon.

Federer had offered some hope to his legions of fans when he said he planned to return to the tour after teaming up with long-time rival and friend Rafael Nadal to play doubles at the Laver Cup in London next week.

He had also planned to play at the Swiss indoors tournament at home in Basel. "This is a bittersweet decision, because I will miss everything the tour has given me," Federer, who has two sets of twins with wife Mirka, added.

"But at the same time, there is so much to celebrate. I consider myself one of the most fortunate people on Earth. I was given a special talent to play tennis, and I did it at a level that I never imagined."

> My friend and rival, I wish this day would have never come. It's been a pleasure but also an honour and privilege to share all these years, living so many amazing moments on and off the court
> NADAL

> A champion's champion. He has the most complete game of his generation
> BILLIE JEAN KING

> What a career! We fell in love with your tennis and it became a habit
> TENDULKAR

Podoroska pips Maria in thriller

Down 1-5 in the third set tie-break, the Argentine claws back

CHENNAI OPEN

N. SUDARSHAN
CHENNAI

Tatjana Maria's ingenuity ran dry as she was ousted 3-6, 6-2, 7-6(6) by Argentina's Nadia Podoroska in WTA Chennai Open round-of-16 match at the SDAT Tennis Stadium here on Thursday.

In a compelling, but not so thrilling, contest that ran for 2 hours and 46 minutes, Podoroska found herself down 1-5 in the deciding set tie-break before clawing her way back to win seven of the next eight points and defeat the tournament's fourth seeded German.

During the on-court interview, former India player and Davis Cup captain Anand Amritraj described the contest as "one of the best he had ever watched." Coming from him, it was high praise.

In the first set, though, there was no inkling of the result. Maria employed more than just her slice-heavy game; there were whipped forehands, slapped returns and drives from both wings as she took the set 6-3.

In the second, Podoroska, the 2020 French Open semi-finalist, finally found the tennis to match Maria's. She also had 10 years on her 35-year-old opponent, and it showed during long-drawn rallies. Podoroska moved Maria end-to-end and used the drop shot to great effect as she took the set 6-2.

In the third, Maria lifted her level a notch but Podoroska didn't take much time to respond. Maria had four break-point opportunities - one each in games five and nine and two in game 11 - but the Argentine saved them all. She had one of her own in the sixth game, but Maria erased it with a fine service winner.

But once in the tie-break, both players seemed like nervous wrecks.

If Maria blew a 5-1 lead, Podoroska double-faulted on her first match point at 6-5. But the latter gathered herself just in time and showed enough staying power to finish on the right side of a lengthy rally to clinch the tie and book a meeting with Eugenie Bouchard.

Other results (round-of-16):
Singles: Katie Swan (Gbr) bt Anastasia Gasanova 7-6(5), 6-2; Magda Linette (Pol) bt Oksana Selekhmeteva 6-2, 6-0.

Slugging it out: Despite losing the first set, Podoroska kept herself in the frame. • R. RAVINDRAN

Karman-Rutuja duo bows out

NIHIT SACHDEVA
CHENNAI

Karman Kaur Thandi and Rutuja Bhosale lost 0-6, 3-6 to the top-seeded Canadian-Brazilian pair of Gabriela Dabrowski and Luisa Stefani in the women's doubles quarterfinal of the Chennai Open on Thursday.

With Karman and Rutuja's defeat, India's challenge at the WTA 250 event came to an end.

Dabrowski and Stefani, the 2021 US Open semifinalists, started aggressively and clinched the opening set in 16 minutes. The Indian duo, which had received a last-minute entry in the draw as alternates, failed to match the quality of their opponents' net play and could only win seven out of 31 points in the first set.

Indians finally won their first game of the tie in the second set as Thandi held her serve to make it 1-1. As the home crowd cheered the two, they managed to break Dabrowski and took a 2-1 lead.

However, the top seeds targetted Bhosale and broke her twice in the next five games to turn the scoreline to 5-3 in their favour.

Playing her first tournament in more than a year after suffering a knee injury during the 2021 US semifinals with Dabrowski, Stefani served for the match successfully as Bhosale hit a cross court forehand wide at 15-40.

Gaikwad's century saves the day for India-A

Save Upendra, the other Indian batters fail to deliver

NZ-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Ruturaj Gaikwad (108, 127b, 12x4, 2x6) held firm even as India-A turned in a disappointing show on the first day of its third 'Test' against New Zealand-A on Thursday.

On an M. Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch which held no demons, India-A was dismissed for 293.

Gaikwad, who had low scores of 21 and 5 in this series, turned the corner with a classy knock. He picked the lengths early, and played all the shots in the book to record his fifth First Class century. He found able support in Upendra Yadav, who made a 134-ball 76.

Gaikwad and Upendra put on 134 runs for the fifth wicket. When the duo launched the big hits, it forced the New Zealanders to scurry into the empty stands to retrieve the ball.

Gaikwad could have piled on the runs, if not for a lazy waft at a wide delivery from off-spinner Joe Walker. Walker sent Upendra back as well, caught at deep mid-wicket. Walker, who at times delivered pedestrian long hops and full tosses, was thrilled to claim two key wickets.

Gaikwad, who has made his name as a white-ball batter, spoke about adapting to the long format.

"I feel I was a little rushed in the first two matches, as I was playing red-ball cricket after a long time. Mentally and technically, I was not up to the mark in the first two matches. The mindset in this match was to stay at the wicket. I knew their spinners are not up to the mark, in comparison to ours, so the runs would flow," Gaikwad said. Loose strokes cost Rajat Patidar (30) and Abhimanyu Easwaran (38) their wickets. Sarfaraz Khan fell for a duck, fending awkwardly at a rising delivery from pacer Matthew Fisher.

The scores:

India-A — 1st innings: Priyank Panchal c Cleaver b Fisher 5, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Fisher b Solia 38, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Cleaver b Walker 108, Rajat Patidar c Cleaver b Fisher 30, Sarfaraz Khan c Cleaver b Fisher 0, Upendra Yadav c O'Donnell b Walker 76, Shardul Thakur c Walker b Ravindra 7, Rahul Chahar c O'Donnell b Duffy 13, Saurabh Kumar c O'Donnell b Duffy 9, Umran Malik c Ravindra b Fisher 3, Mukesh Kumar (batting) 0; Extras (b-1, w-2, nb-1): 4; Total (in 86.4 overs): 293.

Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-66, 3-111, 4-111, 5-245, 6-262, 7-268, 8-278, 9-289.

NZ-A bowling: Duffy 20.4-3-56-2, Solia 16-6-47-1, Fisher 14-1-52-4, Ravindra 23-4-68-1, Walker 11-0-65-2, O'Donnell 2-0-4-0.

Turning things around: After a couple of low scores, Gaikwad came good with a classy knock. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Haaland soars for City in Champions League

Messi, Mbappe and Neymar score in PSG's comeback win over Haifa

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA

It was a Erling Haaland show in the Champions League even on a night when Paris Saint-Germain superstars Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappé and Neymar all scored in a comeback win.

Manchester City also trailed, deep into the game, at home against Haaland's former club Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday in a fascinating quick reunion for the prolific Norway prodigy.

The stage was set for Haaland to seal a 2-1 win after teammate John Stones levelled the game scoring with a stunning shot in the 80th minute.

Haaland rose to his challenge in the 84th when he met a high cross with a twisting leap and acrobatic volley to send goalward a ball that seemed to have passed him.

Messi had tied the game for PSG before halftime at Maccabi Haifa but it took until the 69th for Mbappé to seize the lead and Neymar sealed a 3-1 win in the 88th.

The results:

Group A: Rangers 0 lost to Napoli 3 (Politano 68-pen, Raspadori 85, Ndombele 90+1).

Group E: AC Milan 3 (Giroud 45-pen, Saelemaekers 47, Pobega 77) bt Dinamo Zagreb 1 (Orsic 56); Chelsea 1 (Sterling 48) drew with Red Bull Salzburg 1 (Okafor 75).

Group F: Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Mudryk 29) drew with Celtic 1 (Bondarenko 10-og);

Real Madrid 2 (Valverde 80, Asensio 90+1) bt RB Leipzig 0.

Group G: FC Copenhagen 0 drew with Sevilla 0;

Manchester City 2 (Stones 80, Haaland 84) bt Borussia Dortmund 1 (Bellingham 56).

Group H: Maccabi Haifa 1 (Chery 24) lost to PSG 3 (Messi 37, Mbappe 69, Neymar 88);

Juventus 1 (Milik 4) lost to Benfica 2 (Joao Mario 43-pen, Neres 55).

Flying kick: Haaland rose to the challenge with an acrobatic volley. • REUTERS

Haynes hangs up her boots

REUTERS
SYDNEY

Rachael Haynes, a core member of the Australia team that has dominated women's cricket for a generation, called time on her 13-year international career on Thursday.

The 35-year-old top-order batter also retired from State cricket but said she would play one more season for Sydney Thunder in the Women's Big Bash League.

The left-hander has scored 3,818 runs in more than 150 internationals over all three formats since her debut in 2009 and won six global titles with Australia.

Former Pakistan umpire Rauf passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf has died aged 66 following a cardiac arrest in Lahore on Wednesday.

Rauf made his first appearance as an umpire in international cricket in 2000. He officiated in 64 Tests (49 on-field and 15 TV), 139 ODIs and 28 T20Is and was one of Pakistan's leading umpires in the mid-2000s.

"Saddened to hear about passing of Asad Rauf. Not only was he a good umpire but also had a wicked sense of humour. He always put a smile on my face and will continue to do so whenever I think about him. Many sympathies with his family for their loss," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) president Ramiz Raja tweeted.

Rauf, who had played 71 First Class matches for National Bank and Railways before taking up umpiring, was appointed in the ICC elite panel in April 2006.

Asad Rauf. • FILE PHOTO

England team arrives in Pakistan

PCB confident of smooth conduct

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KARACHI

England's cricket squad touched down here on Thursday on a first tour of Pakistan in 17 years – a lengthy absence brought about by security fears. England last played in Pakistan in 2005 and was due to visit last year until pulling out at short notice after New Zealand also cancelled a tour citing safety concerns.

Following a 2009 attack by Islamist militants on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore, Pakistan was forced to play international matches at neutral venues such as the UAE, where it hosted England for series in 2012 and 2015.

Over the past five years, international cricket has gradually returned to Pakistan and earlier this year Australia toured successfully for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century.

The PCB said the Australia series had "demonstrated our event planning and operational skills" and expressed confidence that the England games would also pass off safely.

On match days, roads between the England team hotel and Karachi's National stadium will be sealed off and be under armed guard.

Pranav Anand becomes India's 76th GM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

Pranav Anand is India's newest Grandmaster. The 15-year-old from Bengaluru became the country's 76th GM on Thursday when he crossed the 2500 Elo mark during the World youth chess championship in Romania.

He had already met the other requirements for the title, having scored the final GM norm from the 55th Biel Chess Festival in Switzerland in July.

"But for the pandemic, Pranav could have become a GM at least a year ago," his coach V. Saravanan told *The Hindu* on Thursday. "He is extremely passionate about chess and is a natural. He is one of the most talented kids I have ever come across."

Pranav. • TWITTER/CHESSBASEINDIA

Naveen on course for a bronze

SPORTS BUREAU

Commonwealth Games champion Naveen Malik remained in the race for a bronze in men's freestyle 70kg section of the World wrestling championships in Belgrade on Thursday.

Naveen lost to Asian champion Taishi Narikuni of Japan 6-1 in a 70kg first round bout. Naveen made it to the repechage round when the Japanese booked a place in the final.

Deepak (79kg) beat Israel's Dan Tsesarsky 10-0 but lost to Uzbek Bekzod Abdurakhmonov 13-2. Sanjeet Kundu (86kg) lost to Georgia's Tarzan Maisuradze 4-4 on criteria.

Kunnummal and Vihari propel South

Courtesy the duo's centuries, the team reaches a commanding 324 for two on day one against North

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DINAKAR
SALEM

It would be insensitive to call Rohan Kunnummal a run-machine.

He collects his runs with machine-like precision, yes, but then his batting has a heart-beat and soul.

An artist, he brush-strokes the canvas with varying colours, completing the picture in the process.

Hanuma Vihari is as tough as they come. He is organised, composed, calm and gathers his runs methodically.

Big partnership: Kunnummal and Vihari sent the North Zone bowlers on a leather hunt. • R. RAGU

Inherent solidity

The inherent solidity in his methods is hard to ignore; his wicket is never given away easily.

The 24-year-old Palakkad-born Kunnummal's stroke-filled 143 (225b, 16x4, 2x6) opening the innings and skipper Vihari's unbeaten 107 (220b, 7x4, 1x6) piloted South Zone to a commanding 324 for two against North on day one of their Duleep Trophy semifinal at the quaint SCF ground here on Thursday.

And B. Indrajith (20 batting) appeared in fine touch as South dominated the proceedings on a picturesque ground flanked by hills.

The North bowlers struggled. There was not much in the surface for the pacemen, save for the early period. And the side did not possess genuine quality in spin.

The South batsmen were not complaining. Openers Kunnummal and Mayank Agarwal (49, 59b, 6x4, 1x6) put on 102 in 22.3 overs. Mayank stroked fluently on both sides before the left-arm spinner, Nishanth Sindhu, turned one past his defensive blade to disturb the stumps.

Kunnummal struggled to find batting rhythm initially and Mayank nursed the youngster through the difficult period. Gradually, Kunnummal grew in confidence.

No respite

There was no respite for North. Kunnummal and Vihari added 167 in 315 balls.

Kunnummal has sped off the blocks since the last Ranji season with three hundreds and an innings of 75.

Once he got his belief back here, he flashed the lively Navdeep Saini past covers and point, and cut, swept and whipped the spinners.

Kunnummal is light of feet and and a dancing-down-straight-drive off Sindhu was all class. He has an easy backswing and generates power with his bat-speed and dexterous wrists. And he invariably finds the gaps. Kunnummal was eventually dismissed playing on to Saini.

But then Vihari, with his backfoot punches, and loads of character, ensured South retained the advantage.

The scores:

South Zone — 1st innings: Rohan Kunnummal b Saini 143, Mayank Agarwal b Sindhu 49, Hanuma Vihari (batting) 107, B. Indrajith (batting) 20; Extras (lb-4, nb-1): 5; Total (for two wkts. in 90 overs): 324.

Fall of wickets: 1-102, 2-269.

North Zone bowling: Saini 10-0-51-1, Siddharth Kaul 13-2-39-0, Dagar 23-0-76-0, Rana 3-1-9-0, Sindhu 23-3-78-1, Narang 14-0-53-0, Dhull 4-0-14-0.

Kartikeya has West in a spin

Left-arm spinner puts Central Zone in the driver's seat

S. DIPAK RAGAV
COIMBATORE

Left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya continued from where he left off in the last Ranji Trophy season by coming up with a brilliant five-wicket haul (five for 66) to put Central Zone in the driver's seat on the first day of the Duleep Trophy semifinals against West Zone here on Thursday.

Extra bounce

Opting to field, Central reduced the star-studded West Zone to 252 for nine at stumps with Rahul Tripathi batting on 64.

Left-arm pacer Aniket Choudhary struck in the fourth over of the day when he had Yashasvi Jaiswal caught at slip for a duck, with extra bounce doing the trick.

Soon after Gourav Yadav had skipper Ajinkya Rahane trapped leg-before with the batter not offering a shot.

At the same time, Prithvi Shaw (60, 78b, 10x4) showed that there were quick runs to be made on the surface which had good bounce for the bowlers, playing beautiful shots square off the wicket. In the second session, Tripathi retired hurt on 47 with discomfort in his left hand and soon after Kartikeya struck twice in quick succession to reduce West to 152 for six.

Shams Mulani and Tanush Kotian then steadied the ship with a 74-run stand for the seventh wicket before Kartikeya had Kotian bowled while attempting a cut.

The Madhya Pradesh spinner then got his fifth wicket when he castled Jaydev Unadkat, who went for a slog sweep.

The scores:

West Zone — 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw b Kartikeya 60, Yashasvi Jaiswal c Shubham b Aniket 0, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Gaurav 8, Rahul Tripathi (batting) 64, Armaan Jaffer c Aniket b Karan 23, Het Patel lbw b Kartikeya 2, Shams Mulani c Shubham b Rajpoot 41, Atit Sheth c Mantri b Kartikeya 3, Tanush Kotian b Kartikeya 36, Jaydev Unadkat b Kartikeya 1, Chintan Gaja (batting) 5; Extras (lb-8, w-1): 9; Total (for nine wkts. in 82 overs): 252.

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-33, 3-90, 4-143, 5-147, 6-152, 7-226, 8-230, 9-230.

Central Zone bowling: Rajpoot 14-1-55-1, Aniket 16-2-47-1, Gourav 11-0-44-1, Kartikeya 27-7-66-5, Karan 14-2-32-1.

Toss: Central.

Oh no! Shaw is done in by a quicker delivery from Kartikeya. • M. PERIASAMY

Mirra well-prepped to do the 'trick

MYSURU: Mirra, who is in fine fettle, poised for a hat-trick in the Mysore 1000 Guineas (1,600m), the first classic of the season to be held here on Friday (Sept 16). There will be no false rails.

1 SON OF THE LIGHT PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00 pm: 1. Country's Major (2) Saddam H 62, 2. Country's Bolt (6) J. Paswan 60.5, 3. Gabriella (1) Vijay K 60.5, 4. Here I Come (3) L.A. Rozario 59, 5. Rumour Lady (9) Akshay K 59, 6. Vijaya Surabhi (4) Dhanu S 59, 7. Scarlet Princess (12) H. Rathod 58, 8. Jabbar (8) S. Saqlain 57.5, 9. Wondrous (10) Gautam Raj 57, 10. So Far (5) Kiran Rai 56.5, 11. Red Hot Chilli (13) R. Pradeep 55.5, 12. Spiritualqueen (7) Sai Kiran 54 and 13. Virginia Queen (11) Nazerul 53.5.

1. RUMOUR LADY, 2. SPIRITUALQUEEN, 3. JABBAR

2 PENAMBUR PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 2-30: 1. Venezuela (4) R. Shiva K 60, 2. Lead Singer (12) Afsar Khan 59, 3. Star Speck (2) Hasib A 59, 4. Code Of Honour (5) S. Shareef 58.5, 5. Country's Delight (1) L.A. Rozario 58.5, 6. Hurrem (13) Dhanu S 58.5, 7. Jacaranda (6) Nazerul 58.5, 8. Reckoning (11) Vijay K 58.5, 9. Twin Flame (10) Kiran Rai 58.5, 10. Pininfarina (14) S. Qureshi 58, 11. Royal Command (9) Sai Kiran 58, 12. Felicita (7) Antony 57.5, 13. Country's Prince (8) Saddam H 56.5 and 14. Infinite Grace (3) R. Pradeep 55.5.

1. FELICITA, 2. ROYAL COMMAND, 3. STAR SPECK

3 ORIGINAL VEL RACING TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 3-00: 1. Silvarius (8) Antony 61, 2. Achook (3) B. Darshan 58, 3. Ravishing Form (5) Trevor 58, 4. Douglas (6) Akshay K 55.5, 5. Heroism (2) H. Rahul 55.5, 6. Tia Maria (1) J.H. Arul 55.5, 7. Shubankar (7) Srinath 55, 8. D Jani (-) (-) 53.5 and 9. Imperius (4) Sai Kiran 52.

1. RAVISHING FORM, 2. SHUBANKAR, 3. SILVARIUS

4 M.W. CHINNAPPA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3-30: 1. Unyielding (7) J.H. Arul 62.5, 2. Leap Of Faith (3) S. Qureshi 59, 3. Gintoki (8) B. Darshan 58.5, 4. Power Of Thea (11) A. Agarwal 57.5, 5. Peluche (3) Antony 56.5, 6. Evangeline (9) J. Paswan 56, 7. Niche Cannabis (5) Srinath 56, 8. Elusive Girl (6) S. Saqlain 54, 9. Impelling Power (1) Sai Kiran 54, 10. The Strength (10) Arvind K 52.5 and 11. The Response (4) Hindu S 50.

1. UNYIELDING, 2. THE RESPONSE, 3. GINTOKI

5 MYSORE 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o Fillies, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Gallery Queen (3) Hindu S 56, 2. Mirra (6) Akshay K 56, 3. O Hansini (5) Srinath 56, 4. Philosophy (7) Sandesh 56, 5. Polished Girl (2) Suraj 56, 6. Prime Abbess (4) Trevor 56 and 7. Victoria Punch (1) Antony 56.

1. MIRRA, 2. PHILOSOPHY

6 GOOL & SOLI POONAWALLA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 60 to 85, 4-30: 1. Trust Bond (3) Sai Kiran 60, 2. Square The Circle (7) Srinath 59, 3. Cavarozzi (1) Jagadeesh 57, 4. Divine Ray (5) Akshay K 56.5, 5. Crescendo (4) Hasib A 54.5, 6. Success (2) Hindu S 54 and 7. Notoriety (6) B. Darshan 52.5.

1. SUCCESS, 2. DIVINE RAY

7 PENAMBUR PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Flying Falcon (8) Salman K 60, 2. Unimaginable (13) Dhanu S 60, 3. Indian Glory (9) Sai Kiran 59, 4. Sir Calculus (3) Srinath 59, 5. Catalina (7) C. Umesh 57.5, 6. D Golden Cup (2) H. Rahul 57, 7. Morganite (6) Afsar Khan 56.5, 8. Coorg General (5) J. Paswan 56, 9. Sultan Sword (4) R. Shiva K 56, 10. Dalhousie (10) Jagadeesh 55.5, 11. Valkyrie (12) B. Darshan 55.5, 12. Country's Song (11) L.A. Rozario 55 and 13. Oriental Lily (1) J.H. Arul 55.

1. SIR CALCULUS, 2. CATALINA, 3. ORIENTAL LILY

Day's best: **MIRRA**

Double: **RAVISHING FORM – SUCCESS**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Sadeek wins the Stewards Trophy

MYSURU: M. Bobby-trained Sadeek (Hasib Alam up) won the Stewards Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Thursday (Sep 15). The winner is owned by M/s. Amarjeet Singh Narula & M. Bobby.

1. S. HAJEE MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,600m), rated 20 to 45: **ANTINORI** (H. Rahul) 1, Born King (M. Naveen) 2, Fun And Laughter (R. Shiva K) 3 and Knott So Knotty (Ayaz Khan) 4. 2-1/4, 11-1/2 and Lnk. Im, 40.40s. ₹22 (w), 11, 10 and 31 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 63, FP: 46, Q: 17, Trinella: 312 and 247. Favourite: Born King. Owners: M/s. Gaurav Sethi, Abhimanyu Jagdish Thackersey, Aditya P. Thackersey & Gaurav Rampal. Trainer: Vishal Yadav.

2. INDRADHANUSH PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 25: **VIJAYA MIRACLE** (Kiran Rai) 1, Raptor (Hasib A) 2, Gold Charm (S. Saqlain) 3 and Shivalik Attitude (Santosh K) 4. 1-1/4, 1 and 1/2. Im, 07.00s. ₹25 (w), 12, 17 and 18 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 71, FP: 162, Q: 130, Trinella: 398 and 109. Favourite: Vijaya Miracle. Owner: The Estate Of ex Mr. Gnanadeva Rao. Trainer: V. Appachu.

3. M.B. APPAYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65: **PERFECT RENDITION** (Hasib A) 1, Magic Circle (Akshay K) 2, Smart Cadillac (Sai Kiran) 3 and Mark One (S. Saqlain) 4. 3/4, 3-1/2 and Nk. Im, 11.15s. ₹58 (w), 26, 16 and 18 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 50, FP: 284, Q: 118, Trinella: 2,115 and 1,165. Favourite: Magic Circle. Owners: M/s. Sujay Chandrahas, Dean Stephens & Martin Alan Wheeler. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

4. B.A. NANAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **AMAZONIA** (C. Umesh) 1, Lord Commander (Nazerul) 2, Country's Flash (Sai Kiran) 3 and Rhythmic (J.H. Arul) 4. 3-1/4, Lnk and Shd. 1m, 11.09s. ₹36 (w), 17, 16 and 18 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 53, FP: 146, Q: 128, Trinella: 1,392 and 665. Favourite: Rhythmic. Owners: Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd rep by. Dr. Ram H Shroff & Mr. Raj H Shroff & Mr. Chetan Shantilal Shah. Trainer: Rakesh.

5. STEWARDS TROPHY (1,400m), rated 60 to 85, 4-y-o & over: **SADEEK** (Hasib A) 1, Forever Together (S. Saqlain) 2, Capable (Hindu S) 3 and Sound Of Canon's (C. Umesh) 4. 2, 3 and 4. 1m, 23.34s. ₹73 (w), 23, 14 and 20 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 45, FP: 174, Q: 49, Trinella: 338 and 189. Favourite: Forever Together. Owners: M/s. Amarjeet Singh Narula & M. Bobby. Trainer: M. Bobby.

6. S. HAJEE MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. I), (1,600m), rated 20 to 45: **TREVALIUS** (Sandesh) 1, Twilight Tornado (J.H. Arul) 2, Mystic Mountain (S. Saqlain) 3 and O Kanhaiya (C. Umesh) 4. Not run: King Pompous. 5-3/4, 1-3/4 and 4-3/4. 1m, 36.93s. ₹14 (w), 15 and 41 (p), SHP: 58, THP: 29, FP: 53, Q: 46, Trinella: 132 and 49, Exacta: 511 and 225. Favourite. Trevalius. Owner: Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta. Trainer: J.E. Mckeown.

7. HAVERI PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: **BRAMASTRAM** (Nazerul) 1, Southern Power (Antony) 2, Dr Logan (B.L. Paswan) 3 and See My Heels (Rayan) 4. Not run: Johnny Bravo. 3/4, 2 and 1-3/4. 1m, 25.62s. ₹28 (w), 10, 14 and 46 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 43, FP: 75, Q: 48, Trinella: 354 and 251, Exacta: 2,026 and 695. Favourite: Bramastram. Owners: M/s. Kumar N & B.N. Prakash Raj Urs. Trainer: M. Rajendra Singh.

Jackpot: ₹2,394 (74 tkts.); Runner-up: 575 (132 tkts.); Treble (i): 1,404 (seven tkts.); (ii): 148 (34 tkts.).

Purav & Divij in last four

SPORTS BUREAU

Purav Raja and Divij Sharan beat Alexandru Jecan and Dan Alexandru Tomescu of Romania 6-4, 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the $53,120 Challenger tennis tournament in Istanbul on Thursday.

Other results: $25,000 ITF men, Madrid: Singles (quarterfinals): Alberto Barroso Campos (Esp) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-1, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Men: Doubles (quarterfinals): Prajwal Dev & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam bt Ignacio Martinez (USA) & Neil Oberleitner (Aut) 6-4, 7-5.

Women: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Sravya Shivani bt Anjani Maheshkumar 6-4, 6-0.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Sravya & Melis Ayda Uyar (Tur) bt Sarah Adegoke (Ngr) & Anna Borovinskaya (USA) 6-3, 6-3.

IN BRIEF

Bangalore Eagles soar

BENGALURU

Bangalore Eagles defeated ADE 3-1 in the BDFA Super Division football league here on Thursday.

The results: Bangalore Eagles FC 3 (Nimshad Roshan 26, Rajender Singh 31, Sanju Kumar 48) bt ADE 1 (Anthony Leonard 62); Kickstart FC 2 (Abhishek Shanker 44, Princewill Emeka 88) bt Kodagu FC 1 (Arun Lal 27).

Revolutionising sports ecosystem in U.P.

Conclave drives quest to find ways to ignite the nation's Olympic dream

Moment to cherish: Former athlete Bahadur Prasad and athlete Rupal Chaudhary honoured by Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, Govt. of U.P. • R.V. MOORTHY

SPORTSTAR NORTH SPORTS CONCLAVE

SANTADEEP DEY
LUCKNOW

Sportstar's North Conclave in Lucknow brought together top sportspersons and sport industry experts under one roof for a series of carefully-curated conversations on revolutionising the sports ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh.

The dialogues offered an insight into the lives of the sports stars and helped find ways to ignite the nation's Olympic dream.

The first session on Thursday had Navneet Sehgal, U.P.'s Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, discussing what the role of the sports industry can be in the State's run to becoming a trillion-dollar economy. He said, "We are looking to get a lot of inputs and suggestions from this Conclave today."

Special address

Sports Minister Girish Chandra Yadav also delivered a special inaugural address virtually, saying, "The Conclave will be very beneficial for our players."

Former India and Chennai Super Kings batter Suresh Raina, in a panel discussion to find out what an athlete requires to find success, said, "Kids these days are hesitant about going out and playing. The best support system should start from the school level. U.P. government does great work in this regard. Uttar Pradesh is Uttam (best) Pradesh."

Next, Primary Education Minister Sandeep Singh elucidated how the National Education Policy takes care of a child's all-around education.

"Sport plays an important role in a child's overall growth. We have almost 12,000-plus sports teachers who are specially trained in their respective disciplines. Sports need to be given equal importance as all the other academic subjects," he said.

Boban Totovski, International Esports Federation's general secretary, said Esports is en route to becoming a part of the Olympics programme.

"In 2020, we received the opinion from their membership group that we fulfil all conditions to be full members of the Global Association of International Sports Federations. GAISF and IOC (International Olympic Committee) work closely together.

GAISF's Membership Assembly was supposed to happen in Russia but it has been postponed. So, now we wait. But there will be a lot of documentation, structure and projects," Totovski said.

Later, Rachana Govil, former ED of the Sports Authority of India, Lucknow, said there needs to be more community programmes to make people aware of women's safety issues.

"There is a lot of character assassination whenever girls speak with boys. During my playing days, the first thing my mother told me was to not protest when a guy started following me on cycle and was passing comments. Around 40 to 50% female athletes get bullied or sexually harassed," Govil said.

'U.P. govt. working on a new sports policy'

There couldn't have been a more opportune time for Conclave, says Sehgal

SANTADEEP DEY
LUCKNOW

Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, Government of Uttar Pradesh, says the State is working on a new sports policy, which will see new sporting facilities come up for the first time in four districts.

"We must involve young people in the field of sport. We are working on a new sports policy, and there couldn't have been a more opportune time for this Conclave. This is the best way to reach out to our sportspersons.

"We have been working on creating better infrastructure and sporting facilities. In our State, we have stadiums everywhere except four districts. But in these districts also, work is already underway," he said while speaking at the *Sportstar* North Sports Conclave here.

"Sport is a way of life... The government of U.P. has always awarded all medallists after tournaments. Now, we have gone on to identify 26 gazetted posts where players will be appointed without any interview process," Sehgal added.

No dearth of merit

Sehgal also said Uttar Pradesh's industrial policy would allow for better transactions between stakeholders. "There is no dearth of merit in U.P. Sports would play a significant role in the state's efforts in becoming a trillion-dollar economy. We are inviting entrepreneurs through our industry policy. We have a good ecosystem. In ease of doing business, we are No. 2 in the country".

He also informed the audience regarding a State government fund exclusively created for U.P.'s sporting heroes.

"We have created *Eklavya Krida Kosh*. It is a fund for sportspersons. It provides social security and insurance coverage up to ₹5 lakh for sportspersons and their family, among other facilities. Notably, it also helps the athletes attend national and international events by looking after the travel. The government has contributed ₹25 crore to the fund".

Sharing insights: Vandana Katariya (CWG medallist), Priyanka Goswami (CWG silver medallist), Ekta Bhyan (Asian Para Games medallist), Rachna Govil (Former ED, SAI, Lucknow) at the *Sportstar*'s Conclave at Lucknow on Thursday. • R.V. MOORTHY

Sandeep Singh, MoS (Independent Charge), Primary Education, being presented a book by Varghese George watched by Tahsin Zahid (CEO, SPEFL-NSDC). • R.V. MOORTHY

Manjusha Kanwar, DGM-Sports Coordination, Indian Oil and Nidhi Pundhir, Head CSR, HCL Foundation and moderator Rakesh Rao, left. • R.V. MOORTHY

Vijay Yadav (CWG medallist), Commander R. Rajagopalan (Former head, TOPS), Lalit Upadhyay (Olympic hockey medallist) and Sanjeeva Singh (High Performance Director, Indian Archery). • R.V. MOORTHY

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*Terms and conditions apply. The cashback offer of ₹3000.00 is available and valid exclusively on EMI transactions on HDFC Bank Debit & Credit Cards and Non-EMI transactions on HDFC Bank Credit Cards. The cashback offer is valid and applicable for transactions made using the Brand EMI option on Pine Labs and Paytm terminals and on select online merchants via Pine Labs Payment Gateway. The cashback shall be credited within 120 business days from the last date of the transaction month on a best effort basis to all open and active cards members' accounts only. No Cost EMI is applicable on HDFC Bank Debit and Credit Card EMI transactions on 6 month tenure only. Low Cost EMI is available on tenure greater than 6 months. Processing fee and GST on interest component is applicable as per the Bank's terms and conditions. The Exchange bonus of ₹ 2000.00 is exclusively provided by the Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers Cashify and Servify at select stores at their sole discretion. Exchange Offer along-with exchange bonus is valid only for transactions involving trade-in of eligible old devices valued at least ₹ 3000.00 or above. The exchange bonus and trade-in value will be passed on as a credit or discount in the customer's invoice. Exchange Bonus offer can be clubbed with Cards Cashback Offer. Exchange Bonus offer cannot be clubbed with any other existing consumer loan offers. Customer's eligible old device trade-in value as diagnosed and assessed by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will be the final offer. Any other T&Cs as specified by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will apply. Offer available till stocks last. Available at select Apple Authorised Reseller stores. For store details log on to indiaistore.com. The offers may be revised or withdrawn without any prior notice. Product features vary by model. TM and © 2022 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.